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COMFORT

— THE KEY TO A MILLION AND A QUARTER HOMES —

NEW YORK

AUGUSTA, MAINE.

BOSTON

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JULY

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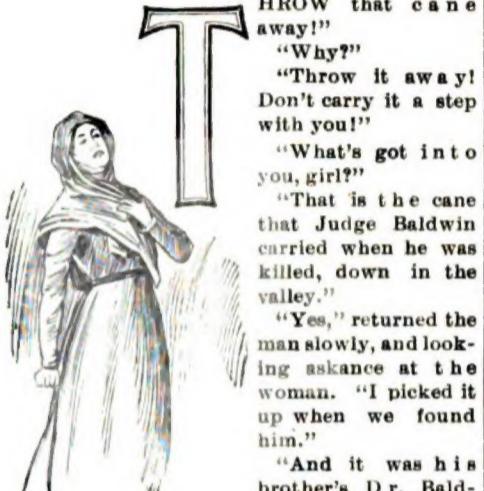
PRIZE WINNERS FOR JULY.

Katherine E. Letts, First Prize.
Frederick E. Burnham, Second Prize.
Max B. Thrasher, Third Prize.
Nicholas Lamar, Fourth Prize.
Ellen F. Wyckoff, Fifth Prize.

THE VOODOO CURSE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY KATHERINE E. LETTS.

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"*THROW that cane away!*"

"*Why?*"

"*Throw it away! Don't carry it a step with you!*"

"*What's got into you, girl?*"

"*That is the cane that Judge Baldwin carried when he was killed, down in the valley.*"

"*Yes,*" returned the man slowly, and looking askance at the woman. "I picked it up when we found him."

"*And it was his brother's Dr. Baldwin's before he was killed in the runaway.*"

"*Perhaps. What of it? I believe you are superstitious.*"

"*And old Daddy Sanders used to carry it before he was killed in the storm two summers ago.*"

"*Well?*"

"*And his wife used to use it to help her lame foot before she fell over the cliff out on the farm. I can remember how she used to hobble around when I was a child. And they say a young surveyor who was killed by lightning under the tree in front of Sanders' gate, was holding it in his hand at the time.*"

The man grimaced, threw the cane back into the house, and strode out of the front gate towards the village. The morning sun was just peeping over the mountain and lighting up the valley below. The woman followed the man's retreating form, glanced on beyond him into the village, then on up the mountain, and finally down into the valley where the mists still floated.

With a sigh she retreated into the house, and a moment later might have been seen jostling the cane that caused the controversy out of the door, across the yard, and into the open road with the toe of her shoe.

They were brother and sister, this man and girl, children of Colonel Bristow, a Georgia statesman, prominent during the Rebellion, and who had owned at one time nearly the whole of the village and almost all that side of the mountain. When Colonel Bristow died, the son, Charles, and the daughter, Mary, fell heirs to a considerable patrimony, despite the fact that the Colonel had lost a great deal of property in later years. Both the children had been away to school, but had returned ultimately to live in the old house, though Charles was often away in the large cities for long intervals, and it was whispered, to no good purpose. At any rate, perhaps owing to bad management, the estate was now seriously encumbered.

About noon that same day, brother and sister were sitting on the veranda discussing the subject, and rather anxiously too, when a young man passing down the road entered the gate and politely asked for a drink. The Bristows, not wanting in Southern hospitality, offered him a seat and sent the servant for a pitcher of water. The stranger was a gentlemanly fellow who apparently knew a good deal of the world, and soon they were engaged in an easy conversation. His name proved to be Morton Hall, his occupation paymaster in a timber company, and his present object to pay off the men in one of their logging camps on the other side of the mountain. He said that he had got thus far with a considerable sum of money, when his horse had cast a shoe and gone lame, compelling him to stop for an hour or so.

Mary Bristow expressed surprise that he should attempt to travel alone with money on his person, especially in view of the recent robbery and murder of Judge Baldwin on the road below. Her brother offered little or no comment, but studied the stranger furtively. For his part, Hall laughed and said that he so little thought of interference that he never even went armed.

They pressed him to stay to dinner, but he

refused politely. They walked with him as far as the gate, and then, just as they were about to take leave, his eye fell on the cane lying by the path. He picked it up and examined it curiously. It was built up out of a stiff, straight ash shaft wrapped spirally with several strands of slender white rattan and one of soft greenish wood capped the handle end.

"Let me make you a present of that," said Bristow.

"Oh, I beg of you not to take it," exclaimed his sister impulsively.

Mr. Hall was about to hand it over with a gallant remark, when Bristow broke in roughly, "Don't let yourself be influenced by a fool girl's whims! It is only superstition."

"I beg pardon?"

"It is really a dangerous thing to own," persisted Mary. "The cane is older than I am. The story goes that it was made by a notorious Voodoo doctress years ago who put into it the fatal black Ippa vine, and then cursed it, so that it brings death to whoever owns it. The doctress herself was brought to her death by it! Every one who has owned it since has died a violent death."

Morton Hall laughed heartily. "Is that all?" he asked. "I am not in the least superstitious."

"I owned it for a week, and suppose I must look for trouble," said Bristow, sarcastically.

"I must thank you for the present," rejoined Hall. "The story adds to its value as a curiosity," and with a pleasant good-bye he lifted his hat and started toward the village.

During the meal the brother and sister sat silently. She sighed in a troubled way from time to time, and he looked glum and muttered to himself. After dinner he disappeared.

It was nearly six o'clock when Mary Bristow, sitting on the front veranda, saw Morton Hall ride past the house. He touched his hat and waved the cane in farewell.

"It grows dark suddenly in the valley," she called.

"Never fear," he answered. "Good-bye."

Two miles farther down the road the traveler drew his horse up sharply. The road was flanked on each side by a heavy growth of underbrush and it was almost dark now. "An uncanny place," he muttered. "By the description they gave me at the hotel, this must be the place where Judge What-you-call-him was murdered." The horse shied suddenly. Hall gripped the cane tighter and balanced it to see what sort of a weapon it might make. He glanced at it in surprise. It seemed to writhe in his hand. Then a figure stepped out of the underbrush and took deliberate aim at him with a rifle. The horse shied again and the rifle cracked. Morton Hall was a brave man but his next move surprised even himself. He found the would-be assassin within reach, and quickly raising the cane he brought it down with all his strength. The repeating rifle cracked again but the bullet sped wide.

Hall looked for his assailant. He had fallen under the blow. Quickly dismounting the paymaster knelt by him. The wooden head of the cane had struck the temple and raked downward through the face and jaw as though it had been of the hardest iron and propelled by an irresistible force.

Hall mounted his horse again determined not to venture farther that night. In a little while he had reached the village and given the alarm, and it took but a short time to get a crowd together to go to the place to which Hall guided them.—By this time it was quite dark, and no attempt was made to identify the dead man by those who bore him back, and some time later a crowd of men burst into the hotel and laid the body of the highwayman on the floor in front of the roaring fire. An incredulous murmur was running continually over the villagers and many came and peeped at the white upturned face, and then tip-toed, away, whispering, "It is! It's Charlie Bristow!"

And then a slender young woman with a shawl over her head came, and the people drew back to make room. She looked, murmured, "I thought so, I thought so! O brother!" and pulled the shawl over her face and went away.

Then a strange thing happened. Morton Hall crossed the room toward the body of the man who had tried to murder him, carrying the fatal cane in his hand. Just as he passed in front of the fire-place the cane in some manner slipped between his legs and he tripped and plunged forward head first toward the raging flames. But a higher Power than the Voodoo had placed the blacksmith at the chimney corner, just where he could catch the falling man and save him.

The cane, however, slipped past, up-ended for an instant, and then toppled into the fire. There it lay for a moment while all gathered around to look. Next the strands began to unwind in the heat and the whole piece writhed and twisted. Its contortions grew wilder and even seemed to take on a human desperation. The very brands and blazing logs were stirred from their place and thrown out into the room where the red light fell on the face of the corpse. Then there was a sudden explosion that put out the fire, and the men groping their way out in terror were choked by a pungent smell of burning sulphur.

The accursed talisman of the Voodoo had done its worst, and was no more.

OUTWITTED.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY F. E. BURNHAM.

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HIL Buddington was station agent at Longview. He had held the position for two years and had won the respect and confidence of the company.

The station was one of the loneliest on the road—two miles from the nearest house. Buddington had hoped for a pleasanter and more lucrative position long before this, but other men seemed to have the faculty of stepping in just ahead of him, and he was almost

ready to believe the complaint of many of the men on the road—that there was little chance of advancement for anyone, save those who had friends in the management of the road.

The office at Longview had been robbed and the company had lost something over a hundred dollars. Although Buddington was in no wise to blame, and the company looked at the matter in that light, Phil was inclined to view the loss too seriously, feeling worse over it than if the money had been his own.

The opportunity presented itself for Buddington to serve the company in a marked manner and he was not slow in responding.

One morning the express-messenger on the down-train handed Phil a letter from the division-superintendent, warning him to keep a sharp watch for two desperadoes who had robbed several of the road's offices. Further, he was informed that five hundred dollars reward was offered for the arrest of the men.

Buddington received the note early in the morning and all day his thoughts reverted to the matter. He wondered what he should do were the outlaws to surprise him, and with all his meditation, was quite unable to solve the perplexing problem. Of one thing he was sure, however—he would do his best to protect the interests of the company, and if possible do something toward bringing the men to justice.

Early in the afternoon snow began to fall and Phil busied himself earlier than usual caring for the switch-lights and attending to certain other duties, intending to leave as soon as the mail-train had passed.

At three o'clock the mail-carrier threw the pouch into the office, and was off again in a trice, his horse, cold and impatient, scarcely to be trusted alone for a moment.

Buddington was reading the superintendent's letter for the fourth time. A slight noise at the ticket-window caused him to glance up. For an instant his heart stood absolutely still.

There they stood, the two men whom the superintendent's letter had described, less than six feet away, as villainous-looking men as he had ever seen there on the border.

The office-door was closed and the new safe that the company had sent down two days previous was open; within the strong-box were six hundred dollars belonging to the company.

"Open the door, youngster," said one of the men, advancing to the door.

It would have been dangerous to have disobeyed, and Buddington did what most men would have done under the circumstances. He complied, but in doing so he passed the safe and adroitly closed the door, turning the combination. He had not yet mastered it, and the numbers were written upon a slip of paper. The instant he turned the combination, he threw the slip into the fire.

"Now open that safe, boy," said one of the men, with an oath, "we want the cash and are going to have it."

As yet, Buddington had planned nothing definite. His only thought in destroying the combination numbers was to gain time, meanwhile his wits might come to his assistance and suggest something.

"Certainly," replied Phil, his voice a trifle unsteady, "but you will have to be patient. The safe is a new one, and I have not yet learned the combination. I have it written upon a slip of paper and will look for it."

In one of those moments of keen perception the means of outwitting the men flashed upon him.

"Excuse me," said he, turning pleasantly to the men, "but not once have I failed to hang the mail-pouch on the crane yonder, in time for the mail-car to snatch it as it passes. The train is due in less than ten minutes; would you object to my attending to the pouch before looking farther?"

"Yes, we do object," roared one of the men, angrily.

"Hold on," said the other, speaking to his comrade, "the last train that stops here has gone. Perhaps the 'mail' would think it strange were there no pouch to-night. Let

him attend to it."

"There is something in that," said the other, thoughtfully, "hang the pouch and be done with it, boy."

Buddington had at odd moments picked up a passable Spanish vocabulary. Near the border it was spoken freely, especially by the train crews that passed beyond the Mexican line and he had little trouble in conversing with any of the men on the road. Rapidly he wrote in Spanish upon a railroad tag.

"What's this?" demanded one of the men, glancing at the tag which Phil had tied to the mouth of the pouch.

"Merely a few words to facilitate the mail-clerk's work," replied Phil, "I take it you don't know much about the handling of Uncle Sam's mail. The clerks down here are about as familiar with Spanish as English."

Far down the road sounded the warning whistle of the express. Without waiting longer, hoping to escape embarrassing questions, Phil started out of the office, the men for an instant undecided what to do.

That moment of hesitation cost the outlaws their liberty, for Phil hurrying away, hung the pouch, and hardly had he returned to the office when the express whizzed past, the mail-car snatching the pouch from the crane.

Stop train below the cut. Am trying to hold two outlaws. Come by back-road, and well armed. Buddington.

Instantly the clerk, who managed the iron arm for catching the pouch, noticed the unusual tag and took in the situation. The train was just rounding the curve in the road that hid the station from the approaching and departing trains; seizing the bell-rope, he gave the engineer the signal to stop the train.

"Be ready with your guns, boys," he cried, "Buddington at Longview is holding two robbers. See if your fire-arms are all right and follow me as soon as the train stops."

Meanwhile, Phil was ostensibly hunting for the combination-numbers, turning over this and that pile of papers in a vain attempt to locate the paper which had gone up in smoke a second before the men entered the office.

Phil thought that the trainmen were a long time in responding, and he wondered if the mail-clerk had noticed the tag at all.

"I believe the boy is playing it on us," said one of the men sniffing danger in the delay.

"We'll give you just three minutes to open

St. Vitus Dance. One bottle Dr. M.M. Fenner's Specific cures. By mail. Send for Circular, Fredonia, N.Y.

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All these symptoms rapidly disappear when the stomach is relieved, strengthened and cleansed by Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets. They should be taken after meals and a few carried in the pocket to be used whenever any pain or distress is felt in the stomach. They are prepared only for stomach troubles.

Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets are indorsed by such physicians as Dr. Harlan, Dr. J. H. Johnson, and Dr. Mayer, because they contain the natural digestive acids and fruit essences which when taken into the stomach cause the prompt digestion of the food before it has time to ferment and sour, which is the cause of the mischief.

Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets are pleasant to take and unequalled for invalids, children and every person afflicted with imperfect digestion. It is safe to say they will cure any form of stomach trouble except cancer of the stomach.

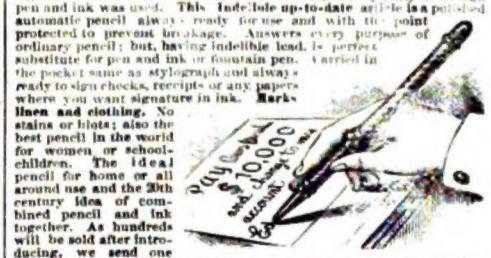
Nearly all druggists sell Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets, full sized packages at 50 cents. A book on stomach troubles and thousands of testimonials sent free by addressing F. A. Stuart Co., Marshall, Mich.

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that safe, and then—" he finished the sentence by cocking his revolver.

Buddington was now powerless to open the safe, had he so desired. Almost, he wished he had not destroyed the magic numbers and he wondered if he had not acted in a foolhardy manner. His fingers trembled as he continued the pretended search and his breath came in short gasps.

Buddington was standing so that he commanded a view of the rear door to the station, while the outlaws faced him. Suddenly he caught sight of the trainmen. They were running through the snow, two carrying rifles, the rest with a hand at the hip pocket.

The allotted three minutes were nearing an end and the man who held the cocked revolver, nervous and suspicious, watched the second-hand of the clock as it hastened on its third circuit. An instant later Phil saw three of the trainmen stealing into the station with their shoes off.

"I'll look here," said Buddington, throwing up the roll-top to the ticket-rack. Of course it stuck, and he slammed it down again, sending it up once more with a terrific bang.

Click! Click!

The two desperadoes leaped as though stung. They turned to find themselves peering into the muzzles of three gleaming revolvers, and three determined men commanded them to throw up their hands.

Those grim messengers of death were an unanswerable argument.

If looks could have annihilated Buddington, he would certainly have departed this life then and there.

The following week Buddington received a cheque from the company for five hundred dollars, all claim to which the trainmen waived. What pleased him most, however, was an accompanying note from the superintendent, informing him that a position awaited him as agent at one of the large offices of the company.

"A man who can keep cool and protect the interests of the company, when he might reasonably be expected to yield, we deem worthy of advancement," was the brief statement explaining the appointment.

TWO PRISONERS OF WAR.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY MAX B. THRASHER.

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URING the recent war with Spain the United States Government was sometimes harshly criticised for the publicity given to many of the plans of the campaign, and it was said that no secrets could be kept from the newspapers. Probably the critics never stopped to reflect that the very frankness with which much information was given out might be the surest method for diverting attention from what it was wished to keep secret.

That this may have been true is to be seen from the following story, told here for the first time, of one of the most exciting incidents connected with the war.

* * * * *

On one of the largest of the islands in Boston harbor is a private school for boys. The name of the island is Bradford's, and the school has been in existence there for over half a century. Bradford's is only about a mile from the main land. To the north lies Castle Island, on which is built Fort Independence, a massive granite structure formidable enough to look at but wholly useless as a defense against the guns which have been cast since its prison-like galleries were constructed. Out beyond Castle Island is the main ship channel through which, narrow and crooked as it is, all of Boston's commerce must pass. Still farther to the east are Boston Light, Nix's Mate and the other islands of the harbor, over which the boys at Bradford's can sometimes catch the gleam of the light on Minot's Ledge.

One night in July of 1898 a sentinel was pacing back and forth upon the crest of a bluff on the western shore of Bradford's Island. The face of the bluff was steep and gravelly, and it descended abruptly to a narrow beach upon which the waves were slowly climbing as the tide came in. A few rods back from the crest of the bluff was a little grove of oak trees, and half a dozen neat white tents under the trees marked the place where had been pitched the summer vacation camp which for several years has been one of the most popular features of the Bradford School.

Don Clayton had the watch from nine to one o'clock. The clocks in the Dorchester church spires over across the bay had just struck for midnight, and Don was thinking that in one more hour he could crawl into one of the tents which looked so inviting back there under the

trees. Camp Phillips, named after one of the old Bradford boys who was now a soldier in Cuba, was laid out forty rods square. Following three sides of the square the picket line was inland, away from the edge of the bluff. Pacing up the third of these lines, his gun upon his shoulder, the sentinel approached the bluff again. Just ahead of him, across the water, the brilliant electric lights of the city shone through the night. Don wondered to himself just where on the "Heights" before him the cannon had been planted which drove the British out of Boston. The question was never settled in his mind, though, for when the picket came up to the bluff he saw that in his absence a boat had been drawn up on the beach and that five men were standing just beneath him. At first, thinking they were "clammies" Don started to warn them that this island was private property and that no one was allowed to land upon it without permission. Before he had shouted out this warning, though, Don saw something which caused him to draw back from the brow of the bluff and drop down flat in the grass to where he could crawl back again and just peer over the edge of the bank, down upon the beach, without danger of being discovered. The five men standing close beside the boat were talking excitedly, although too low for Don to hear what they said. Several times they pointed out upon the water in different directions, and it was when one of the men had done this that a long black cloak which he wore had slipped from his shoulders and given the picket on the bank above a chance to see that this man wore beneath the cloak the heavily gold-trimmed uniform of an army officer.

At first Don thought that after he had watched the men for a minute or two he would squirm back in the grass to where he could get to the tents without being seen and there wake up the instructor who was in charge. Later, though, he decided it was best to wait and watch the midnight visitors. Evidently they were no ordinary "bay prowlers," looking for a chance to steal fruit or chickens, and he made up his mind that if they put quietly out in their boat again he would not molest them nor arouse the camp. He wished he knew what they were talking about. Sometimes he could catch a word or two, but when he could he could not always understand, and he finally decided that not all of the men, at least, were speaking English. Anxious to hear better he crawled a little farther out upon the edge of the bluff.

It was an unfortunate move. Some of the boys only that afternoon had been burrowing into a stratum of gravel just there in search of the Indian arrow heads in which Bradford's Island abounds. The thin turf on the edge of the bank gave way. Don was too far over to save himself, and down he slid, along with little puffs of dust and an avalanche of gravel, until he landed on all fours right among the men.

Naturally the men jumped aside from this unexpected arrival, but before Don could get his breath enough to shout an alarm, or, in fact, to say anything, they were back by the boat again and two of them had seized him and bound a handkerchief about his mouth so tightly that he could not make the slightest noise. Then, while one of the two held him by the coat, the other brought a rope from the boat and tied hand and foot, when this was done laying him down like a bale of goods upon the sand.

By this time the other three men had come back to the boat, and an excited discussion took place over Don's body, although the men talked in whispers now for it was evident they feared there might be other eavesdroppers up in the darkness out of which the boy had been fired so unexpectedly at them. The talk lasted only a minute or two, though, for one of the men gave a sharp command, and pointed towards the water. The two men who had bound Don picked him up and laid him in the bottom of the boat. The men who had given the command, and the man in uniform, who had drawn his cloak about him again, seated themselves in the boat, the other man pushed off and taking the oars rowed out into the bay.

At first Don thought he had been kidnapped, but his common sense promptly told him that he was not a person of enough importance to have all this disturbance made over him, and he decided that he must have been brought along because his captors were afraid he would have given an alarm if they had left him behind. As the boat moved out farther from the shore the men began to speak again, this time not in whispers, since they were not afraid of being overheard. Imagine how Don, tied and gagged in the bottom of the boat, felt to hear the captain say:

"Better put a knife into him and throw him overboard. We've run risk enough already."

The man in the cloak made some reply which Don could not understand, but it was a relief to feel that he objected to the murderous proposition of the other. Don knew now that a part of the time the men had been speaking to each other in Spanish. His chum at Bradford's was the son of an American merchant in Havana, sent to the School when the Cuban trouble began, and Don had learned enough Spanish from him to be able, now that the men talked aloud, to guess their meaning.

"Hear me, and put him out of the way, and be safe."

The speaker had thin, hard lips and cruel eyes. Don could not see him from where he lay in the boat, but each time he spoke the boy thought of a long, wicked-looking knife which a sailor who had once come to Bradford's had brought with him, and which the boys said had once killed a man.

"Not unless we must," the man in the cloak replied. "I like the risk as little as you, but he is only a boy, and—I have a boy of my own, no older than he is, over in Madrid."

The man who seemed to be the captain began an angry reply, but he had spoken only a word or two when a low whistle sounded from the surface of the water not far away.

"Ah! There's the boat," he cried. "Good!"

The men rowing changed their course into the direction from which the whistle had been heard, and a few minutes later the row boat came alongside a clean-built steam yacht painted dead black and lying silent on the water, without a light in sight. Men leaning over the rail caught the side of the row boat with muffled boat hooks and held her while the five men who were in her climbed to the deck of the yacht. Don they left lying in the bottom of the row boat.

"What makes you so late?" the captain demanded angrily.

"We ran aground," the man who seemed to be in charge of the yacht replied.

"It was only the coming tide that got us off. It's no use trying to go around the island on that side. The channel is too narrow and the current too strong."

"Caramba!" cried the captain. "It is the main channel we must take then, and run our chances."

"General," he added, turning to the man in the cloak, whom the men on the yacht had greeted with very great respect, "we can spare no time. What shall we do with the boy?"

The officer looked down into the boat, where Don had stopped breathing to hear the answer.

"Cast off," he said, "and let the boat drift. We do not need her now. Somebody will pick him up to-morrow, but we shall be safe out of the way long before then."

Don felt the boat roll as the noiseless boat hooks pushed it outward. Then he heard the "swish" of the yacht's screw through the water, and then he was alone. The boat seemed very still, but he knew he must be drifting.

He wondered if the tide had turned and was bearing him out into the broad harbor where, in the darkness, he might at any moment be run down by a tug or a steamer. He fancied that through the water he could feel the throb of the propeller. Behind one of those great ocean liners he had so often watched go up and down the channel. He knew they always planned to go out on a high tide. Was he in the path of this one, and would she strike him? Perhaps the tide had not quite turned, though, and there might be wind enough to blow his boat ashore on some of the islands before she reached the channel. Even if the row boat beached herself he might lie in her for hours before any one would find him. He tried to get up, but his head and shoulders were thrust under one seat and his feet under another, and he could not stir.

When he stopped trying to get up, and was quiet again, he heard the steamer's propeller plainly. "Chug, chug, chug, chug." There was no help now. He would be run over and drowned, and no one would ever know what had become of him. He wished they wouldn't have to think at camp that he had deserted his post.

"Chug, chug, chug, chug." The sound was coming nearer. But was it an ocean steamer? No! The vibrations were too short and quick. Don recognized the sound now. It was the little naphtha launch of the floating life-saving station, out on its regular night patrol. The boys at Bradford's knew the station well, and had often seen the red and green lights of the launches go past in the darkness. If he could only make the crew hear him. He tried to shout, but could not.

The sound of the engine grew fainter. They had passed him, when:

"Boat ahoy, there," a voice sang out through the night.

A very little later and Don was raised up into the launch, unbound and un gagged, and plied with questions. The life-saving men find many strange derelicts but seldom one to cause them more surprise than to find a Bradford School boy as they found Don. Fortunately the captain of the station was himself on board the launch that night.

"I don't know just what's up," he said, when Don told his story. "I don't just see their game, but I think I know what to do."

Upon which the prow of the launch was turned in shore, to where the nearest telephone could be reached, and in a very few minutes the Commandant's office at the Charlestown Navy Yard, in which in those exciting days some one was on duty night and day, knew all that Don could tell.

Half an hour later the launch landed Don at the School wharf, where no one but the instructor in charge of Camp Phillips, and the Principal of the School, ever knew why he deserted from picket duty that night.

Some of the Boston papers the next day con-

tained this paragraph:

"The fast gun-boat Machias came into the harbor this morning having in tow a rakish-looking black yacht. Both boats dropped anchors off the Navy Yard, but the authorities there decline to give any information as to what the strange boat may be. The Machias has been lying at anchor off the Navy Yard for several day past."

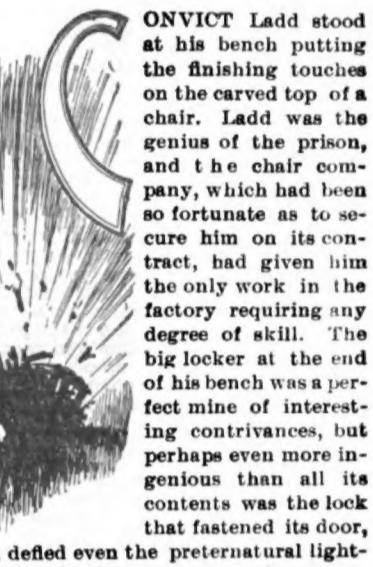
And that, until this story was written, was as near as the public ever came to knowing that a famous Spanish officer, captured in the Cuban War, was for a time confined a prisoner in Fort Independence, in Boston Harbor; that he escaped from there, and was recaptured.

All of which may show that the Government can keep secrets when it wishes to do so.

A. Ladd and His Wonderful Lamp.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY NICHOLAS LAMAR.

Copyright, 1899, by W. H. Gannett, Publisher.



ONVICT Ladd stood at his bench putting the finishing touches on the carved top of a chair. Ladd was the genius of the prison, and the chair company, which had been so fortunate as to secure him on its contract, had given him the only work in the factory requiring any degree of skill. The big locker at the end of his bench was a perfect mine of interesting contrivances, but perhaps even more ingenious than all its contents was the lock that fastened its door, and which defied even the preternatural light-fingeredness of his fellows.

Suddenly the convict held up two fingers toward the guard on his raised platform at the center of the shop, indicating that he wanted to leave his place, and on receiving a signal of permission he started toward the supply room.

THE LATEST POPULAR SONGS.

Cost in single copies at least 40 cents each; but we have a book of one hundred and fifty-six popular songs sentimental, pathetic and comic with words and music complete which we will send to any friend who will send six cents to pay mailing expenses and our illustrated catalogue of latest bargains.

S. W. LANE & CO., Augusta, Maine.

\$5 AND UP. 1000 SEWING MACHINES

Standard makes. Everyone a bargain. Various styles. Highest grade high arm machines. We are closing out the stock of a well known make at less than factory cost. We are under contract not to advertise the name of our agents. Don't miss this opportunity. WE GUARANTEE the machines for years—most for your money—satisfaction in every purchase. Shipped on approval. Not right don't keep it. A few good AGENTS WANTED.

BROWN-LEWIS CO., (E) 292 Wabash Ave., Chicago. (This is an old house and reliable. Machine is a bargain—Editor.)

WATCH AND CHAIN FOR ONE DAY'S WORK.

Boys and Girls can get a Nickel-Plated Watch and a Chain and Charm for selling 1½ doz. Packages of Bluing at 10 cents each. Send your full address by return mail and we will forward the Bluing, post-paid, and a large Premium List. No money required.

BLUINE CO. Box 312 Concord Junction, Mass.

5000 BICYCLES

Overstock. Must be closed out. Standard '99 Models guaranteed, \$10 to \$25. '98 & '97 models \$8 to \$15. Shopworn and second hand wheels, good machines, \$3 to \$10. Great Factory Clearing Sale. We ship anywhere, to any one, on approval and trial without a cent in advance.

EARN A BICYCLE by helping us advertise our super-wheels. Easy work and sure reward on our new plan. We will give one Rider Agent in each town FREE USE of Sample Wheel to introduce them. Write at Once for Our Special Offer.

B. O. MEAD CYCLE CO., Chicago, Ill.

4 BUGGY WHEELS \$6.50

HIGH GRADE SARVERN'S PATENT, tired and balanced, height 47½ in., 4½ in. wide. Spokes 11-16 or 1-14 in. For any other sizes send for catalogue. Cut this ad out and send to us with ONE DOLLAR, state size wheel wanted, and we will send them by freight C.O.D. EXAMINE THEM at your freight depot and then pay freight agent balance, \$5.50, and freight charges.

WE SELL Buggy Tops at \$6.95, Wagon Umbrellas, \$1.50, Ironed Buggy Yokes painted, \$3.25, Ironed Neck yokes, \$1.35, Ironed Wagon Sideboards, 17c., 19c., and 27c., Ironed Wagon Eveners, each, 42c., Trimmed Buggy Neck yokes, .35c., Top Buggies, \$23.95 and up. Send for Free Catalogue.

SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., (Inc.) Chicago, Ill.

DRESS PINS

with chain is a great comfort to any mother and a neat and pretty affair for the child to wear, these gold plated Dress Pin Sets are being sold at Jewelry stores for 50c. each, but being anxious to introduce our monthly sets of these fine chain pins and will send one set free to all who enclose 17c. for a special trial six months' subscription to "COMFORT." Two sets and a year's subscription for 26c. Address COMFORT, Augusta, Me.

At the bench next on the right a short, stubby fellow was at work, his cap pulled recklessly on sideways, his face in a snarl, and his whole appearance bespeaking surly ill temper. As Ladd passed him this man thrust out one foot and tripped him up.

A wild burst of anger appeared in the convict's eyes. He turned like a tiger and with a storm of blows drove the other to the floor. But only for a moment. The short man sprang again and returned the assault. The neighboring prisoners began to cheer and cat-call. Guard Brice came running and tried to separate the fighters. As well might he have expostulated with two angry bulls. Then finding that they ignored him, he raised his mace and struck twice, each blow leaving an ugly scalp wound. The men fell apart and staggered to an upright position, blood running down over their faces. The guard called the patrol, and leaving him in charge of the shop, took the two men "front" himself.

In the afternoon of the same day Ladd was again at work before his bench. He was weak from the punishment the Deputy Warden had administered, and the stitched cut on his skull throbbed convulsively. From time to time he cast furtive glances at his neighbor, who had fared just as badly, and who threw his tools around and jerked at his work in a very speaking manner. It was only the fear of repeated punishment that kept them from flying at one another's throats.

"There comes Old Whiskers," muttered Ladd as an elderly man in a Prince Albert coat, a tile hat, and a pair of gold-bowed glasses, stepped into the shop. "Now I wonder what kind of trouble he'll get me into this time."

"Old Whiskers," in other words Col. Batten, the contractor who operated the chair factory exchanged a few words with the guard and foreman, and then began the round of the first floor, stopping at each bench and inspecting the work, and sometimes speaking to the workman. He reached Ladd, and after looking over his patterns, commented on the character of the wood in the pile of uncarved tops. The convict was just in the humor to ignore him, and so after looking his man over critically the Colonel turned again to the patterns. Then he dropped these and walked back to where the guard and foreman stood talking. He said something rather vehemently and with frequent glances in Ladd's direction. Ladd swore to himself. But in truth Col. Batten was speaking of the patterns and not of the prisoner at all.

Perhaps it was the throbbing wound in his scalp; perhaps the fever of the cut had permeated the skull and touched the brain. At any rate Ladd began to mutter to himself. Old Whiskers was always getting him into trouble, he said. And that guard, Brice, he would get even with him. Yes! He would get even with both of them. The fever grew. His glance sought the convict with whom he had fought in the morning. There was another; he would have a triple revenge.

His eye fell on the gas-holder shed, a large frame building next the chair factory. An idea struck him and he began to think it out. A good education had not been wasted on this man. He watched the clock narrowly, and just before the quitting bell struck he started for the supply room. From a case he took a brace-and-bit intended for drilling holes in iron; then he slipped out into the furnace room and hid behind the boilers. In a few minutes the men in the shop had finished washing, and were already on the road to supper in a lock-step column. As Ladd slipped out from his hiding-place, he dodged the engineer, and reached his bench where he began rapidly and skillfully to fashion an armful of wooden plugs. With his plugs and his drill he sallied boldly forth into the gathering dusk and reached the door of the gas-holder shed.

It was necessary to pick the lock, but in a moment that trivial obstacle was overcome and he stepped inside. Ladd was familiar with the place, having been a member of the force employed on the building when it was erected. The great circular tank filled the whole shed save for a narrow space around the circumference. The convict found a ladder and quickly mounted to the top where he fell instantly to work drilling a series of holes in the boiler iron plates.

It was slow work and already the evening count had showed the guards the existence of a "hide-out." The tolling convict heard the alarm, sniled grimly and worked the harder. As fast as the drill broke through and was withdrawn it was followed by a spouting jet of gas. Then one of the wooden plugs was inserted in the hole and pushed home. Finally the workman was satisfied; he surveyed his handiwork, and muttered, "Now for it! To-morrow night that—who tripped me up, and I will have to work over time, and Brice will be there to watch us. Old Whiskers may not be there, but I'll catch all his machinery and stock, and that ought to break him up."

Then he descended to the ground, put the ladder carefully away, and let himself out of the building as he had entered. He ran in and out between several of the buildings, so as not to be found in the part of the yard near the holder, and catching sight of the lights of a searching party, approached and gave himself up. And a little later he took his punishment, and offered no explanation.

The next evening after supper Guard Brice marched two prisoners from the dining-room back to the chair factory where a special piece of work would keep them far into the evening. Colonel Batten was already there, pottering around among the machinery and the various orders. Ladd glowered at him malevolently. The men had their instructions and immediately set to work. Guard Brice settled himself in his chair nearby to enjoy a quiet smoke. The Colonel had retired into the foreman's private cubby-hole. An hour passed by with no interruption. Then Ladd dropped his tools.

"I want a couple of minutes off," he said.

"Another hide-out?" queried the guard, sarcastically.

"No. I want a drink."

"There's a bucket of water."

"It's stale."

"All right. But remember, if you set the whole force by the ears again you'll catch it worse than last night."

"Can I go?" persisted the prisoner, doggedly. "I suppose so."

Ladd disappeared into the toilet room, noiselessly fastened the door with a wedge and then climbed out of the window and ran toward the gas-holder shed, drawing a sinister-looking object and a quantity of string from his pocket as he went. Having picked the lock he found his ladder and reached the top of the tank. The machine with the string attached to its trigger he fastened to a convenient manhole

screw, and then stood over it thoughtfully.

"I have a hundred yards of string," he muttered. "If I pull it at that distance, I ought to be safe. There isn't any doubt that the flash will set off the gas. Let's see. About one part of gas to twenty parts of air will do the most damage, and it will take full ten minutes to let that much escape into the shed."

He shook out the string to see if it was free from tangle, caught it carefully in the fingers of one hand, and then began rapidly to knock the plugs from the holes he had drilled the preceding evening. The stench of the gas was over-powering. He held his breath.

Just as the last plug came away he caught sight of a moving light through one of the dirty windows. He stooped and saw that it was Guard Brice just come out of the chair shop with his lantern in his hand, who stood peering hesitatingly in all directions.

Ladd ducked involuntarily, and then nearly overcome by the volumes of gas began hurriedly grasping for the ladder. In the darkness he had lost his bearings, and groped in vain till he struck it suddenly and with such force that it fell over with a clatter. Brice heard the noise, uttered a shout, and came running. He jerked the door open and looked in. For an instant the convict was paralyzed, as his danger dawned upon him. Then he howled in terror:

"Don't come in here! Go 'way! Go 'way! Oh, you idiot! You fool! You—"

The very air itself flashed into light. There was a whoosh as of a mighty wind. The building rose bodily from the ground and fell apart, its walls flying in all directions. And it was done.

The immense boiler tank had been twisted half out of the well in which it floated, and the gas poured out of it. The windows of all the surrounding factories had disappeared, the weaker brick walls had been pushed down and just by the doorstep of the gas shed lay the body of a guard clutching an extinguished lantern in his relaxing grasp, while half under the overturned holder lay the body of a convict, blackened and steaming. And up above them streamed a pillar of fire, illuminating the heavens—a signal lamp calling to all men within many miles to witness that Revenge, no matter how successful, is often a double-edged sword without hilt, which makes the intended victim and him who wields it to suffer as one.

A GRAFT ON THE FAMILY TREE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY ELLEN FRIZZELL WYCKOFF.

Copyright, 1899, by W. H. Gannett, Publisher.

THE house was old, old even for Rosquibury. To-night the windows blazed with light. Bonfires burned at the corners of the crooked old streets that wound about it and rockets cut sharply through the heavy smoke that rose slowly from them.

Beneath the wide, old roof that spread above the twinkling windows, more than one of the signers of

the Declaration of American Independence had feasted and slept in the grand old time of long ago. For

the first owner of the place had been a patriot—a rich generous man, proud and brave. In the long picture gallery hung his portrait, the grim, powder-burnt face looking sternly down from its frame. And on the pages of the histories down in the library was his name in honorable place.

To-night the great grandson of the brave old man had called his friends together and the ancient walls rang with merry-making.

This great grandson was a man worthy of his sire. Proudly he traced his lineage back to the stern old warrior who looked down from the gallery wall. There were those who declared that in Phillip Annesley the old man lived again.

But to-night when the great fires leaped and danced among the logs piled in the lanes and streets and the priceless chandeliers in the old halls and parlors twinkled and shone like new constellations and the music from many stringed instruments throbbed through the great rooms, nobody of all the gay company gave thought to a time so long gone. The present happiness was sufficient.

Ladies in quaint costumes and men in queer old clothes danced and chatted behind puzzling masks, for this was a masquerade, and from the ocean came a soft, caressing wind adding its sweetness to the beauty of it all.

In the yellow breeches and blue coat and diamond buckles of his illustrious ancestor, Phillip Annesley moved among his guests, and many a bright eye peeped slyly out at him and many a white hand stayed his progress through the great rooms. He had made an oration in the town hall to-day that had brushed the ashes of indifference aside and set patriotism aglow. There was no mistaking the tall figure with its swinging walk and courteous bow and the kingly poise of the stately head. So he must stop and listen to low spoken words of praise, to pretty, daring compliments from lips that were safely hidden from his laughing blue eyes.

Upstairs, in a great luxurious chamber sat, even so late as this, a wee, faded old woman. A woman so pale and so still that but for the great shining eyes one might have thought her dead. On her lips was a calm, unchanging smile and in her eyes shone a soft light. The fire that burned even to-night in the quaintly tiled fireplace threw splashes of soft red light among the shadows that loved to cling to her. She was old—almost a hundred years old. Her shining eyes had looked into the faces of more than one of the men whose names were being honored to-night.

As the music grew louder she leaned forward,

and then stood over it thoughtfully.

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"How you love him!"

"Love him? I have loved him through three generations. And at last he loves me and is grateful. It is coming, the happiness, at last!"

"All this is too much for you. Shall I not close the doors and help you to bed?"

"No; not one door must you close. Not one. Open them all wide, wider. Let me hear more. It was this night sixty years ago and we were in Florence. I met Phillip there, but it was too late, too late! He painted my picture and—and—You know it, the one at the end of the gallery that is priceless because of the signature it bears. But ah, fame as well as love may come too late. He was dead when the world knew that a genius had lived! He painted my picture. I was like it sixty years ago in fair Florence and I—You are right Editha, the music has gone to my head. Send Hannah. At twelve come back to me. I want you, then."

The girl went reluctantly away. Not one of the fair faces behind the dainty masks down stairs was fairer than hers. Not a voice was softer, not a form more graceful. But she was not of these. Fate or chance or providence, or whatever unseen power it is that directs or decrees the destinies of mortals, had drifted her life alongside Miss Annesley's and she was giving her youth and strength for the food and shelter that would enable her to live on and grow old. Fifteen years ago Miss Annesley had gone on a journey and she had returned with the child, a little shy, quiet girl, with big brown eyes and close cut, reddish hair. And the child had made a place for herself. Not friend, not servant, not anything but Editha. And the years had crept past them, bringing the changes that make life.

Phillip had come home now and then from his wanderings and his heart had gone out to the wee, old woman in the great chamber. This living morsel of a long gone past. She told him stories of the men of long ago; and

she had been a patriot—a rich generous man, proud and brave. In the long picture gallery hung his portrait, the grim, powder-burnt face looking sternly down from its frame. And on the pages of the histories down in the library was his name in honorable place.

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COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

\$5.95 Buys a Man's All-Wool Suit.

Made from Remnants of our finest cloth that cost from \$3.00 to \$6.00 a yard. Equal every way to regular \$18.00 and \$25.00 made to measure suits.

OUR RECENT INVENTORY showed an accumulation of over 3,000 remnants of genuine imported English and Scotch cloths that cost from \$3.00 to \$6.00 a yard, in each of which there was just enough left to make a man's suit. Extra-cut, extra-wide and slanted. All colors and styles.

sometimes when he came after the shadows had gathered in the big chamber and the fire burned in the tiled fireplace, she told him of the great and wondrous love that had come into her life—love that was immortal and could never die.

It was in Florence and she was young and the world was fair to see. She pointed to the walls where hung quaintly beautiful pictures of the old city, as the story went on; but there was a picture across which hung a curtain of priceless tapestry, and this he was never permitted to see. He knew that the curtain hid the face of her lover.

"Did he—die?" Phillip asked one night when the red firelight gathered about the wee witch-like figure bringing to it the soft curves of youth.

"Die? Almost everybody has died in a way, Phillip, but not really, you know. My lover is alive." The glow of the uncanny old eyes made Phillip turn from her.

"It was in Florence where my father was born. Was it then? So long ago?" he asked.

"It was then, but it is not so long when you've measured it step by step. Yes, it was then. It began and ended—no, it hasn't ended. Alice died. She was your grandmother. She knew, but she died. She was frail, that was why we went to Florence. And Horace was gone. Certainly she would have died any way. Sixty years ago! Leave me now, Phillip. My head is—yes, go now."

Only to-night before the gay company had gathered he had been with her. He had come in all the bravery of his great-grandfather's uniform, and she had fondled him with her claw-like fingers and watched him with her burning eyes.

His heart was full of pity for the wee, worn creature propped in the great chair.

"Not many women are so happy as I, Phillip. I've had my lover through three generations, in spite of all that came between." She said as if her bright eyes read the pity he could not conceal.

And Editha had come in, a quiet little body in her dark dress and white apron and cap. To Phillip she was a part of the room. One of the things that belonged to the old woman whose world it was, he had never seen her out of it, never thought of her except as he thought of the pictures and the shadows in the queer place. His visits home were short; his life belonged to the world beyond.

The house was athrob with music to-night when Editha closed Miss Annesley's door and walked down the corridor and past the door that shut off the stair leading to her own little room under the eaves, stopping at last before Miss Annesley's portrait at the end; evergreens and flowers were twisted about the grim old pictures of dead and gone Annesleys.

At the end of the gallery hung the picture of Miss Annesley and Editha stood entranced before it. She had been here not a few times and each time this picture had drawn her to it with an irresistible fascination. The pictured face was a marvel of beauty with its sweet brown eyes and smiling lips and its frame of softly parted red brown hair.

"Beautiful, beautiful. Is there a likeness even now? In my dreams of mother—surely I know the face. The hair, the eyes, the smiling lips—ah, the taunting memory that fades as I grasp it! It is like—"Paler, and with hands suddenly cold, she took from the bosom of her dress a little flat locket. Looking around cautiously she held it to her lips. "Only this once, Granny; nobody will ever know," she whispered, and then carefully opened the case. "It is like the one of the picture, and—and" Editha shivered and turned away.

"It is like the picture and I—yes, I am like it! Not a woman down there in the hall is prettier. Not one." She tiptoed part way down a broad stair and stood looking at the gay scene below her.

"I might do it, just this once. It is two long hours before twelve. Such long hours when the music is throbbing and the others are dancing. There are gowns, lovely gowns in those old trunks. I saw them when I went to get Phillip's costume. I might—"

The attic was not far from her own small corner in the great house. Bending over the deep cedar chest she drew out a package carefully done up in white linen. There was a faint perfume of lavender that was like a dim memory of long ago.

"This is it—the costume in the picture, the white and pink brocade! And the mitts and ribbons and laces and even the tiny white slippers—all but the locket." With flushed cheeks Editha gathered up the bundle and ran to her room. Before her small mirror she dressed herself and laughed aloud at the sound of the high heels of the tiny slippers on the bare floor.

It was easy to pull the soft red brown curls about her ears in the fashion of the picture and then she stood the living image of the portrait of Miss Annesley at the end of the gallery.

Again she crept down the gallery stairs. Slowly farther and farther, timidly at last for at the foot Phillip stood amid a group of laughing girls. One step more and unnoticed she had become one of them. Phillip's eyes found her, a demure little figure in a quaint rose-strewn gown.

"Where shall I seek a partner, fair ladies. Who is willing to dance with so clumsy a man as I on a night so warm? Will you?" He bowed low before Editha.

"Yes," she whispered, wondering if one of her shy little dreams had come true.

Editha had not been taught to dance, but she had watched the merrymakings here in the old hall many a time and her heart was light and the place athrob with music, and with Phillip's strong arms about her she floated through the sea of melody like a thistle down in a summer wind.

"You dance like a fairy," Phillip said.

"That is because I have never been taught to dance like a woman," she laughed.

"Have you not?"

She shook her head. He drew her into a pretty alcove where the sea breeze swayed the curtains softly.

"Won't you take that provoking bit of lace away? I'm sorely tormented because of it. I know you, and yet I do not. The gown, the poise of the head, a tone of the voice, the hair—who is it that you are like?"

She laughed softly—(there was no danger of being betrayed by a sound he had never heard in that dim chamber upstairs)—as he took off his mask and looked eagerly at her. How handsome he was and to talk like this to him, to Phillip!

"The dance is a pleasant one," she said.

"Yes, the very roses in your gown, and your hands—do take the lace away." He leaned

toward her in gentle pleading.

She raised the lace slightly and looked laughingly at him. "You wouldn't know me if the lace were quite gone," she said.

"But I want to, may I?" eagerly.

She shook her head. "Not possibly. I live so far, so immeasurably far from all this."

"Are you a little nun escaped from the convent over in the city, or a being from another world?" he asked. "Because—"

"That is it. I am a being from another world," she laughed.

"And it is in my dreams that I have seen you," he said.

"Really," with a pretty retrospective air, "I do not recollect appearing in any of them."

"But would you know? Really, the people of your world are very provoking. And alas, that is true of the people in mine! I see the girl who wheedled me into asking for the next waltz looking this way. When I can get away from her, will you let me find you here?"

"But how shall I know?"

"The waltz you gave me—the waltz of waltzes it shall be to me forever—I will order that again. You know it? Ah, you remember too! When you hear it, come, please," and then he left her.

What a dream of beauty it was. An hour ago she watched the rockets from her dormer window, all alone. And now she was in the very heart of the merrymaking. She danced and chatted and laughed, a small bright thing with a film of rare old lace across her face and a quaint rose-strewn gown and small, high heeled slippers. And then she stole away to the alcove to wait—no, he was waiting for her!

"You have come. I have been watching you for hours and hours. What are you? A picture stepped from its frame, the spirit of some fair dead dame, a real flesh and blood girl?"

"All three," she laughed, and then her heart stood still. The clock on the stairs began to strike.

"It is twelve—the witches' hour. With the last stroke you must take the lace away!"

She knew the old hall. At the back of the alcove was a door. Could she reach it?

"A fan, please. On the table—get one for me." Slowly the heavy strokes beat through the music. When he brought the fan she was gone. On the rug lay a small white slipper. Laughing he tucked it in his pocket.

The house was dark. At the street corners the fires were dying sullenly. Now and then a lonely rocket swept the sky. Once in a while a loud explosion rent the silence. The Fourth was again a thing of the past.

With the little white slipper in his hand, Phillip stood in his room. "I wonder who she is? What a tiny foot. And the little hand—surely I do know her, and yet—Does a man in this prosaic age fall in love after such romantic fashion? And yet—yes, I want to find my little Cinderella. I must know her."

He turned the shoe over. Had he seen it before?

It was then that Hannah came to him with tidings that put the merrymaking out of his mind.

"Come, sir, come quick! Such a sight as is waiting. It is Miss Berta, sir, going, going at last!"

Silently he followed her.

In her chair sat the wee, worn old woman, her face ghastly, her eyes glazed, her hands clutching some yellowed papers.

"Phillip, I saw my spirit, to-night. I crept all alone to the stair and I looked down, crouching there, and I saw you and my spirit, and there was the light of love in your eyes, and now there is no longer any reason why this old body should live on. I am satisfied, but not sorry, Phillip, not sorry. Love has prevailed."

The voice ceased, the eyes closed, and that was all. Phillip raised the wee form and laid it tenderly down on the canopied bed. Hannah gathered up the papers and gave them to Editha. In the morning when a few friends were gathered in the old house she carried them to Phillip. He sat alone in one of the small parlors.

"I find here the carefully written directions for the funeral. The clothes she wore when her portrait was painted—do you know where they are?" He looked up and started slightly.

"Yes—I will bring them." She came back with the folded linen and laid it before him. "One—one shoe is gone," she said. "I have looked for it."

His face flushed a little and he looked up at her, a quiet little woman with a white ruffed collar pulled low over her hair and eyes.

"Have these been disturbed?" he asked.

She threw up her head and seemed taller. "Yes. I wore them last night and I lost one of the shoes. I am sorry."

He took the lost slipper from the pocket of his coat and laid it beside the other.

"I have found you," he said quietly. "This sad event will necessitate some change in your life," he began formally, but glancing at the ashamed, reddened face he went on hurriedly:

"This is not a fitting season, but I shall not see you for awhile alone—not before I go away. And I want to say it all now, please. I love you. Will you give me the right to take care of you? After all, we know each other better than I thought. Will you be my wife, Editha?"

It was not the wooing she had dreamed of, but the voice was low and tender and the eyes full of entreaty. So, very softly, with the slippers and the rose-strewn gown between them she whispered:

"Yes."

Together they unfolded the papers—old love letters, some of them were—and then a little scarlet bound diary, dated sixty years ago. In gilt letters was the name, "Alice Annesley." Several leaves were tied together with a bit of faded ribbon. Phillip untied it and together they read:

"Florence, June 30th, 18—. Our baby is a girl. Horace will be disappointed; Berta is. The Brents have a fine boy born the same night as ours. They are miserably poor. Berta says Phillip is a genius, but she loves him still, in spite of the wife and boy! Poor Berta."

"July 5th. My head is queer. Berta says so. She dismissed the nurse and sat with me alone, last night. The new nurse tells me that my baby is a boy. I wish Horace was here. I am strangely weak. It is the Brent baby that is a girl and mine—"

Phillip opened it. On one lid was engraved the names, Phillip Brent and Berta Annesley, and facing each other was two pictures. One like Miss Annesley's portrait and the other—

"It is yourself, Phillip," Editha whispered.

There was another paper in which was recorded the death of Phillip Brent and later the

SEND NO MONEY

WITH YOUR ORDER, cut this ad. out and send to us, and we will send you OUR HIGH GRADE DROP CABINET BURDICK SEWING MACHINE by freight C. O. D. subject to examination. You may send us as high as \$60.00, and THE GREATEST BARGAIN YOU EVER HEARD OF, pay our freight agent. Our Special Offer Price, \$15.50 and freight charges. The machine weighs 130 lbs. and the freight will average 75 cents for each 500 miles. GIVE IT THREE MONTHS' TRIAL in your own home, and we will return your \$15.50 any day you are not satisfied. We sell different makes and grades of Sewing Machines at \$8.50, \$10.00, \$11.00, \$12.00 and up, all fully described in our Free Sewing Machine Catalogue, but \$15.50 for this DROP DESK CABINET BURDICK is the greatest value ever offered by any house.

BEWARE OF IMITATIONS by unknown concerns who copy unknown machines under various names, with various inducements. Write to us in Chicago and learn who are RELIABLE AND WHO ARE NOT.

THE BURDICK

has every model. IN PROVE-

ED, SOLID QUARTER SAWED OAK DROP DESK.

CABINET BURDICK'S is the finest cabinet desk ever made. Open the machine closed (see illustration) to be used as a center table, stand or desk; the other open with full length table and head in place for sewing. Four fancy drawers, latest 1899 skeleton frame, carved, paneled and decorated cabinet finish, finest nickel drawer pulls; rests on 4 casters, ball-bearing adjustable treadle genuine Smyth iron stand. Finest large High Arm head, positive four motion feed, self threading vibrating shuttle, automatic bobbin winder, adjustable bearings, patent tension liberator, improved loose wheel, adjustable presser foot, improved shuttle carrier, patent needle bar, patent dress guard, head is handsomely decorated and ornamented and beautifully Nickel Trimmed. GUARANTEED The lightest running, most durable and easiest noiseless machine made. Every known attachment is fitted and ready for use. Instruction Book tells just how anyone can run it and do it plain or any kind of fancy work. THE BURDICK GUARANTEE is sent with every machine. IT COSTS YOU NOTHING to see and examine this machine, compare it with others you are saving \$25.00 to \$46.00, pay your freight agent the \$15.50, we will return your \$15.50 if at any time within three months you say you are not satisfied. ORDER TODAY. DON'T DELAY.

Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.) Chicago, Ill.

A CHAIR

We will furnish the exact same chair when wanted for 50 cents.

marriage of his daughter, Editha, to Arthur Wynde.

"That was my grandfather. When he and granny died Miss Annesley brought me here," Editha said wonderingly.

Later, they stood beside the wee, ghastly form in the rose-strewn gown.

"Did she know you, Editha?" Phillip asked.

"How can I tell? No, surely not, else—What does it all mean, Phillip? See, the curtain is gone from the picture, and it is—why, Phillip, it is like you! What does it all mean?"

"It means that there has been—a graft on the family tree," he said gravely, his eyes on the handsome picture.

"Has some wrong been done, Phillip? She was good to me."

He looked down into the troubled, puzzled face. "It can do no harm, now, Editha. Right and love have prevailed." And he kissed the frightened face tenderly.

"She said that last night. I don't understand, but oh, Phillip, I was so alone, and now I am so glad, so happy, for I love you."



HOLE suits are made of a kind of paper which resembles blotting paper—and the use of bath robes made of this material is quite the fad. The bather, on emerging from the water, simply gets into the paper garment and it at once absorbs the moisture. The process is said to be much warmer than the usual method, and a preventive of colds.

Slippers are also made—and the use of one of these robes and a pair of slippers is not only agreeable and healthful, but a great time saver, as one is dry in one-quarter the time it takes to rub the body dry by means of a towel. They are especially desirable for children.

EVERYBODY WEARS COLLAR BUTTONS.

Send us only 5c. and we send you Six Gold Plated lever collar buttons, either for Gentlemen or Ladies. This can only be done to introduce our great catalogue of Novelties. 5 cents for 6. Write to-day to

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

There are some species of flowers which have no odor except at night.

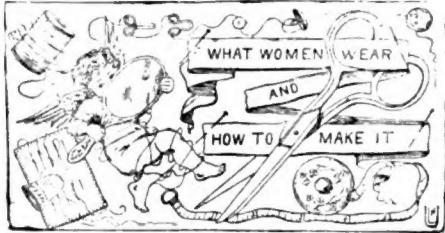
The depth of the Atlantic Ocean between the Canary Islands and the West Indies is nearly 4 miles in places.



Place your finger on your pulse and see if your heart beats regularly and steadily. If there is a single skipping or irregularity of the beats, your heart is weak or diseased, and there is no telling how soon it will stop beating altogether. Heart troubles, dangerous as they are, can be instantly recognized by all. No doctor can tell better than you if your heart is out of order. But remember that irregular or skipping beats are only one symptom, and in many cases are not found. Any of the following are just as positive and sure:

Symptoms of Heart Trouble.

Fluttering, Palpitation, Shortness of Breath, Tenderness, Numbness or Pain in the Left Side, Arm or Under the Shoulder Blade; Fainting Spells, Dizziness, Hungry or Weak Spells; Spots Before the Eyes; Sudden Starting in Sleep, Dreaming, Nightmare, Choking Sensation in Throat; Oppressed Feeling in Chest; Cold Hands and Feet; Painful to Lie on Left Side; Drowsy, Swelling of the Feet or Ankles (one of the surest signs), Neuralgia Around the Heart



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



A WONDERFULLY pretty mid-summer frock is made up of sheerest white organdie over an under slip of violet lawn, the white intersected to form squares, with inch-wide val. lace of a creamy tint. The soft, full bodice is caught about the waist by a crushed belt of rosy violet velvet, finished with a smart bow at the back, while a similar bow of velvet adorns

the side of the lace stock. A number of fetching silk waists have sleeves and guimpe of lace, unlined, making them especially adapted to wear in hot weather. Nothing but praise is given to the hats Dame Fashion has ordained shall be trimmed with naught save a bow of more or less large dimensions. The regular sailor shape is the style usually adopted for this mode of decoration and has the crown banded with a twist or high folds of the silk or velvet, (cut bias and hemmed on the edges) with the bow usually placed directly in front, though it sometimes graces the side of the hat. A dainty one I have in mind is a deep burnt yellow



BERTHA OF BLACK LACE.

satin straw, with a perfectly straight sailor brim, and rather high crown, bearing a tight twist of rose pink velvet about it with an enormous bow of the same at the front, spread out quite flatly. Frequently a large buckle replaces the knot in the center of the bow, with good effect. The mob-cap is still a popular style of head-covering, and is, as is usual thing either all black, or all white; very becoming, too, are they to a round face, and worn alike by the maiden in her teens, and the young matron with her flock of little ones about her wearing the same style of hat. Those of white are built of thinnest silk mull, this material forming both the foundation and the bow of the hat, while around the edge is pleated a very full fall of silky lace. Sometimes a pink rose and few leaves are tucked in among the folds at the side, adding a delicious touch of color.

Linen collars are not nearly so much in evidence among the most fetching girls this season, as are the neck fixings of ribbon, so much more comfortable and becoming, if carefully and properly adjusted. The ribbon is first fast-

again, the pointed end fastened with a fancy pin toward the left side of the front. When the back is fastened in place by means of a gold safety pin, you have a thoroughly up-to-date arrangement, and one that will stay in place, and as high about the neck as could be desired. Often the ribbon is fastened directly in front with a tiny bow and long ends reaching very nearly to the belt.

For wear with white shirt-waists ribbons having a white ground are the daintiest—white satin or taffeta polka-dotted with black or a color, are very much in vogue, as are also ribbons made to resemble ginghams in tiny checks. A very effective ribbon in taffeta has a ground-work of white with a rainbow effect of shades of blue running through the center and black stripes along the border. Handkerchief ties in fancy border or all-over Persian effects are very popular, though more appropriate for country wear than city, as they are more or less showy.

Smart indeed are the shirt-waists having yokes of white. It is the hallmark of this season's goods, and yet it would be an easy matter to remodel last summer's waist into one of these nobby affairs. Entire white waists are made up in most dainty fashion with fronts of all-over embroidery in a small design. Talking of waists recalls to my mind a lovely model in white taffeta, completely covered with coarse white Brussels net, with across the front appliques of apple-green satin ribbon set on with a white cord.

A pretty fad this summer is to have your pique skirt trimmed with three bands of wide insertion with the pique cut from beneath it and worn over a petticoat of blue, pink, green, or violet lawn, matching the shirt-waist in tone.

A most effective white organdie is built over sea-blue taffeta and trimmed most elaborately with row upon row of half-inch white satin ribbon set on as full as possible in slanting fashion, thus bringing the left side much higher than the right. The same mode of decoration elaborates the bodice. The parasol to match is white taffeta with frills of the ribbon set at even distances apart, and lined with sea-blue satin.

One of the prettiest bodices I have seen this season is built of white satin shrouded in white mousseline de soie set in tiny French tucks. An oddly shaped berth of black lace with the pattern outlined in seed pearls and coral, has flaring epaulettes, and odd little cuffs at the elbow and wrist. A stock and belt of coral velvet are the finishing touches.

Never were prettier styles shown in children's frocks than now. A dainty little rig for a tiny miss of four or five summers is made of finest dimity in white, over a slip of rose-pink taffeta. The little Empire waist has a set of shirrings arranged below through each of which pink bebe ribbon is run, tying at the back in a series of little bows. The round neck is finished simply with a tiny frill and over the puff sleeves are airy wings of the dimity.

A sensible frock for a school girl is given here, made up in scarlet challie, the kilted skirt and blouse bordered with inch-wide black velvet ribbon; with it is worn guimpe and sleeves of tucked silk in scarlet, or if a more dressy effect is desired white taffeta or muslin may be substituted. The large brimmed hat of white Neapolitan is trimmed smartly with a big bow of black velvet ribbon.

WHAT HE CAUGHT.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

WAS at Peacock's during the half hour of anticipation between the blowing of Gabriel's horn, which announced that supper was under way, and the clanging of a bell which would proclaim it was ready—and the Story Teller was absent.

"Wonder what's keeping him?" asked the fisherman of chronic failures, as he threw one leg to the veranda railing and then irritably crossed it with the other, "struck a school?"

"Nope; calmed off Cape Florida an' like-ly to pole in 'bout midnight," said the expert troller, philosophically. "I've been all through this no wind business from a b c to algebra. Has any one a yarn that is n't moss grown?"

No one answered. The fat man's legs followed the lead of the irritable fisherman and found their way to the veranda railing, and they were joined by others, singly and in pairs, and only differing in the method of crossing or in the angle of their inclination. At length a small, apologetical man at the far end of the line squeaked out:

"When I was down here last year, I went over to Cape Florida an' caught——"

"What?" cried the fat man, dropping his feet to the floor in resounding interrogation, "king fish? how many?"

"Blue fish, more likely," interrupted the expert troller with fierce eagerness. "Now I my-self——"



The brand new 1899 model, made by the Kenmore Steel Tube & Tire Co. to sell for \$50. They failed a month ago & we bought from the receiver, Mr. S. R. Armstrong, for us all their famous high-grade \$50 Homer bicycles for less than 50 cents on the dollar from the actual cost of manufacturing. We offer them now for less than one-third the regular price.

THE HOMER Bicycle classes with the Columbia and other high-grade \$50 bicycles and is insured by a written, binding guarantee. \$50 was the Kenmore Steel Tube & Tire Co.'s price for the Homer bicycle, not one cent less would buy it. They would not make a cheap bicycle even when \$50 bicycles became almost a memory and the dollar from the actual cost of manufacturing. We offer them now for less than one-third the regular price.

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SEND NO MONEY but send this adv., state if ladies' or gents' is desired and we'll send you an 1899 model \$50 Homer bicycle by express C.O.D., subject to examination. When it arrives examine it critically and if found just as represented, a wonder bargain and fully equal to any \$50 bicycle you ever saw, then pay the express agent our special price—\$15.95 and expressage. Pay nothing if unsatisfactory, but refuse to accept it and it will be returned at our expense. Order quick—at \$15.95.

THUR LOUIS R. VEHON CO., 155-157 W. JACKSON ST., CHICAGO, ILL.

Please mention COMFORT when you write.

"Pshaw! pshaw!" broke in a third impatiently, "he means a tarpon. They're not common on this coast, but we get 'em sometimes. Let me tell you a story."

"Oh tut! tut! tut! let the man finish his yarn," from three or four points at once.

"I—I—I was only about to say, gentlemen," deprecated the apologetic little man, trying to catch his breath, "that when I was down here last winter I went out to Cape Florida an' caught the worst cold I ever had in my life. I ain't quite got over it yet."

Slowly the legs went back to the railing, and "oh!" "h'm!" "bah!" "pugh!" ran down the line. Then from inside came the clang of the supper bell, and in the change of the current of their meditation the little man was enabled to steal away unperceived.

EIGHT PAGE MUSIC 2 1-2 CENTS EACH.

Many of the pieces of full page sheet music advertised under our great music offer consist of eight full pages printed on heavy white paper and have colored covers. You can get ten pieces of music for 25 cents. Read COMFORT's music offer.

The Norwegian Government monopolizes the sale of liquor in the country, and uses the proceeds for road-building.

Drunkenness Cured

The Remedy Can be Given in Tea, Coffee or Food, thus Absolutely and Secretly Curing the Patient in a Short Time Without His Knowledge.

This cure for Drunkenness has shed a radiance into thousands of hitherto desolate firesides. It does its work so silently and surely that while the devoted wife, sister or daughter looks on, the drunkard is reclaimed even against his will and without his knowledge or co-operation. The discoverer of this grand remedy, Dr. Haines, will send a sample of the remedy free to all who will write for it. Enough of the remedy is mailed free to show how it is used in tea, coffee or food and that it will cure the dreaded habit quietly and permanently. Send your name and address to

MRS. JOHN M. HATTON, Building, Cincinnati, O., and he will mail a free sample of the remedy to you, securely sealed in a plain wrapper, also full directions how to use it, books and testimonials from hundreds who have been cured, and everything needed to aid you in saving those near and dear to you from a life of degradation and ultimate poverty and disgrace.

Mrs. John M. Hatton, of Lebanon, Ohio, who a few months ago cured her husband with Golden Specific who had been a hard drinker for years, now writes us that she has also cured a near and dear relative and makes a most earnest appeal to all other women to save the drunkard.

Send for free trial today. It will brighten the rest of your life.

Tobacco Cure

A new remedy has been discovered that is odorless and tasteless can be mixed with coffee or food and taken into the system a man cannot use tobacco in any form. It will cure even the confirmed cigarette fiend and is a God-send to mothers who have growing boys addicted to the smoking of cigarettes. A free trial package of the remedy will be mailed prepaid upon application to Rogers Drug & Chemical Co., 178 Fifth & Race Sts., Cincinnati, Ohio. This will help any woman to solve the problem of cutting her husband, son or brother of a habit that undermines the health, leaving the body susceptible to numerous lingering and dangerous diseases.

Don't wait but send to-day for Plasters. One agent sold the six minutes. Address

THE G. O. PLASTER CO., Box 1229, Augusta, Maine.

for selling only six of our Electric Porous Plasters. We want to prove there is a sure prevention and a cure for Lame Back, Colds, Pneumonia, Rheumatism, etc., etc., and will send you six of our 25c Plasters which you can use to return the money (\$1.50) to us and we will send you, all charged paid,

Rolled Gold Shirt Waist Set FREE. The style. Wear our Country flag at all times and honor our soldiers boyat the front. Send 10 cents to pay postage.

\$5.00 SHAVING SET FREE



Shaving Set packed in a case eight inches long, two inches wide and five inches high. The combination consists of 1 Royal Steel Swedish Razor, single value, \$3.00; 1 Genuine Horsehair, Double Reversible, Canvas-back, Nickle-hung, Ebonized handle Razor Strop, value \$1.00; 1 Best Bristle, large handle Lather Brush; 1 Cake Perfumed Lump Magnesia; 1 Stick rich perfumed Cosmetic, making a grand \$4.00 combination. Every woman should have an outfit in the house for emergencies, use it. Your Husband, her Father, her Son, her Sweetheart has one of these outfit. They make the best presents one can give to a gentleman.

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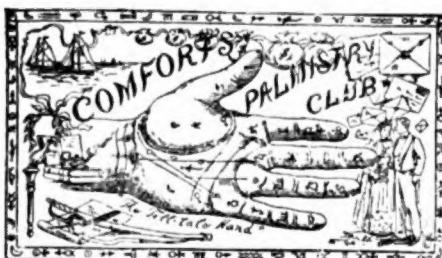
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CONDUCTED BY DIGITUS.

IHAVE a number of hands to be read this month and will therefore postpone answering the questions which have been sent me about various phases of palmistry work.

"Florence" sends two impressions which were not properly secured with the fixative. The right hand is so blurred that it is impossible to make out the lines, but the left hand is very fair and indicates a person of refinement with artistic temperament, strong will, but somewhat lacking in tact. She will, however, make many friends and is a person of excellent judgment, strong likes and dislikes, and a faithful and true friend to others. She has not a very strong constitution although I do not see marks of any severe illness on this impression. She will need to be exceedingly careful of her health between fifty and sixty, but if she pulls through that period will live to be quite old. In matters of the heart she has seen very little trouble and married quite young to the person of her first real choice. I think a second marriage is indicated not far from the age of forty-five which will last throughout her life and will be very happy. Of course, in making this prediction I am guided only by the impression of the left hand which might be modified by the right. I have repeatedly urged that those who send impressions should take the proper precautions to have them prepared exactly right. If these directions are not followed and the impressions do not reach me in a perfect condition I do not hold myself responsible for mistakes in readings. I can only read what I see. "Florence" has a high, pure nature, rather religiously inclined, and she will always live up to her principles under whatever conditions she may be placed. She is of a quiet, home-loving disposition and will not do much traveling. A strong friendship formed in early youth has been drawn away from her although it follows her at some distance throughout her life. As I said before, she will need to be very careful of her health from fifty on, even at forty-five there is danger of trouble. On the whole her hand is very fortunate and indicates a peaceful, happy life.

"Maple Leaf" has a hand indicating a nervous type of character. The fingers denote a philosophic nature and a mind that can turn itself to

any occupation it pleases. The thumb denotes a strong will and great tact so that he will be able to get along famously with all sorts of people and will command the love and respect of those with whom he has to deal. He has an artistic nature, is fond of music and of various kinds of sports. He lacks the perseverance, however, that is necessary to make a great success in the business world. He has good ideas of what ought to be done but has not the courage to go ahead and do what he really thinks he might do, that is if he conceives of a great undertaking he does not quite dare on second thought to carry it out. This is a characteristic of his nature which he will need to overcome and he should cultivate self-reliance and perseverance. He will not marry the first of his loves and in fact his marriage will not take place until he is thirty or over. He will be attractive to the opposite sex, having many qualities which they admire. He has a peculiar temperament, however, and he will always yield to matters of judgment rather than to matters of the heart, that is, his affections will be made to take a second place when his judgment or reason leads him in an opposite direction. He has some ambition in life which will be gratified. He is best adapted to an outdoor life which will give him a free and open business and a chance to travel a great deal. His life line is not so long as I could wish and I would advise him to be exceedingly careful of his health from the age of thirty on. He will, as I have indicated, travel a great deal and usually with success. I don't see any indications of wealth, however, and while he will probably make a comfortable living he will never be what is called a wealthy man. I fear he has an irritable temper which he should early learn to get under control if he would avoid trouble in the future. It will depend largely upon himself whether he sees much trouble or not. If he learns to control his temper, keep himself calm and collected in all emergencies, and to develop his perseverance and courage, he will make a success in life.

"Disheartened" sends a hand which indicates a nervous type of character, one who is restless and unhappy by nature. She has very strong characteristics of mind and her disposition leads her to magnify her troubles. If she would learn to develop self-confidence and repose of character and mind she would be happier. At the same time, she has always had much to contend against. There have always been many interferences with her happiness and progress in life from relatives or friends

who have been opposed to her or a drag upon her at every step of her way. At the same time she has persevered and improved her condition, making a steady advance from the beginning. Although she feels disheartened at present she should take courage as the prospects ahead are much brighter. After the age of thirty she will have much less of this sort of opposition and will meet with much encouragement and many changes for the better. I should judge that her first marriage was not particularly happy, that perhaps some one has come between her and her husband or that some obstacle has come to mar their happiness. This will not last very long. She has been more troubled by the sorrows and perhaps the disgrace of others than the world generally knows; in fact the sorrows which she is bearing or has borne have been quite as much those of others as of her own but she should hold onto her courage and keep up a good heart for this is not going to last and the last half of her life is much the brighter half. I think she will live to a good old age; I see no signs of anything else. She is a very ambitious woman and some of her ambitions at least will be fulfilled although there will be much to go through with before the end is accomplished. In matters of the heart she is a little inclined to be fickle and perhaps this is one cause of her unhappiness. She is inclined to diseases of the chest and throat but these will not prove fatal. She is also inclined to melancholia and she broods over troubles, especially those of the affections. This tendency she ought to strive to overcome and to be more philosophical in her views of life. She will travel a great deal and will derive considerable enjoyment from that but, as I have already said, the better part of her life is the last half so that she should not be discouraged or disheartened. The indications are that she will not be wealthy during the latter part of her life, but she will have plenty during her old age or even from fifty onward, also she will have a reputation for brilliancy and executive ability. On the whole, in spite of her discouragement and despondency at times, much of which is due to her temperament, hers is a fortunate hand and she will see much good luck before she reaches the end of a long life.

"Spring" sends excellent impressions of her hands which indicate a person of strong character, one who is fond of music, company, dancing and pleasure generally. Her hand is a very lucky one, showing good health and a long life which will end in distinction or in great riches. She will have a checkered career, however, and will meet with much opposition from friends between the ages of childhood and thirty years. She will see some trouble with all her changes, but will in the main be happy and successful. She will marry at about twenty-five and will make a successful and happy marriage. The marriage will not be approved by her friends and will probably be to a stranger, perhaps from the old world, but it will prove a happy union although attended by romantic circumstances. I think she will outlive this husband and although she will have several offers she will not be married a second time. She will be left with money which will make her contented in her old age. I think she has talents which would make her very successful if she were to go on the stage in some light soubrette part and although she would have some difficulties to overcome in the beginning, she would be successful and would become noted. I think she will do something of this sort as the signs all point to her making a reputation either as a public performer on the stage, or as a public singer. She will travel a

great deal and her journeys will be successful. If she inclines to take up a public career her friends will oppose it, but she should persevere because she would be sure to succeed. She will never be destitute but on the contrary will become wealthy and will enjoy much distinction after middle life. She will live to be at least three score years and ten. On the whole hers is a very lucky hand.

Digitus

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This is the time of year when everything but a thermometer should quit work.

Will it be contradictory for our Peace Commissioners to celebrate the glorious Fourth? The principles then proclaimed are as true as they are old.

There will be thirty-one days of "Fourths" this year if Dewey will only give a few states the chance. He really needs to go from New York to San Francisco to see just how we feel about it.

The qualities of the real old-fashioned Fourth of July orations have been transferred to the after dinner speeches at the many dinners in honor of those who "won out" in the late unpleasantness.

The man who moves the thought, the tears, and the laughter of the world by his pen is today the real king. The pen may not be mightier than the sword, but in this hurried century it certainly is greater than the scepter. Even royalty itself comprehends this. During a recent illness of the Duke of York he was touched by the notice that the papers gave to his health and by the hundreds of inquiries that poured in. "One would almost think I were Kipling," said the young heir to England's throne.

Fashion condescended to smile upon the bicycle in the days when it was a hundred dollar fun producer. Now the wise ones tell us she has withdrawn her approval. One needs but to cast his eyes about, however, to see how small a part the ultra fashionable section of this world is. There are still two divisions of humanity; those who wheel and those who do not. "Tom" Reed indicated the relative proportion by the dry humor of his answer to an inquiring collegian. The academic youth had come on to Washington to turn the headlight of his trained observation upon the workings of our government. Fate gave him an opportunity to cross question the august Speaker of the House. "Mr. Reed, in your estimation what is the great question of the moment that is absorbing the attention of the mighty masses of the American people?" "Well," said Reed, "as near as I can judge it is dodging bicycles." The number of those who furnish the masses the opportunity to dodge does not decrease.

Women may become athletic and aggressively intellectual and a voter and any number of other things that were not her "forte" of yore. She can not altogether outgrow the hereditary influences of barbarism. The chains and fetters that she won in a far-away time yet survive. The dog whirls round and round before he lies down, with a survival of the instinct that once taught him to break down the bushes around his resting place. Woman has taken the badges of her servitude and wears them proudly as chains and bracelets. Those of 1899 are heavy and barbaric enough to be suggestive of the slavery of the man who pays for all this weight of gold and silver. Various articles have dangled from the end of the fashionable chain, from the four leaved clover to a tiny whistle of gold or silver. One of the latest fads is a tiny flat charm of crystal which opens to receive a national flower. One can imagine all sorts of sentimental interest pertaining to this "little faded flower," but it is style rather than sentiment that moves the modern summer girl.

The time is not far distant when the public will demand that the men and women in whose

hands they place their children for a large part of the year shall be cultured men and women. Cultured not alone through the training by books and study but with the wider culture given by contact with people and by travel. The increase in the salaries of teachers makes this possible. No stronger indication of the purpose of teachers to avail themselves of these opportunities can be given than the largely increasing attendance upon the National Educational Association. This union of the leading educators of the United States is held this year in Los Angeles. During July thousands of teachers are making the trip across the continent. The stimulation that comes from travel and change means far more than the benefit to be derived from association with the people who have national reputations in this line of work. Summer is becoming emphatically the convention time. The average hustling American cannot yet quite reconcile his conscience to a vacation purely for the sake of a vacation, but when he can attend some meeting in a distant part of the country he falls a victim to the combination of work and play that a summer association presents.

July closes the door of 230,000 public schools in this great land. Fourteen million of children are turned out into the air and sunshine. There are lessons in the wide school of Nature for those who have learned the alphabet of observation. The attention given to Nature studies in the schools gives to children an added opportunity to enjoy "out of doors." The child who is intelligently interested in plant and insect life is never without a means of enjoyment and profit. Too much cannot be said in favor of this movement towards training the child to observe the life about him. During the summer months Cornell University offers free tuition to teachers in Nature study. How to observe and how to teach others to observe and read from the book of Nature is well worth spending time over. Mothers often find a means of amusing children in teaching them to collect specimens of all the common plants and flowers. A leaf and a flower placed between sheets of blotting paper and then pressed under a weight, will furnish a beautiful specimen. One child became intensely interested in such work. The common name of the specimen was given and then the place where it was found. Two or three lines of poetry descriptive of the flower were then added and the result was a pleasing record of a pleasant summer. It is a means of amusement but no less a means of education.

Students of sociology note with growing concern the movement of population toward the cities. They often fail to note the fact that the swing of the pendulum that way is followed by a corresponding swing in the direction of more interest in out-door life. The change in this direction is quite as marked as the tendency of population cityward. Out of door sports—golfing, bicycling, riding, driving and hunting, yachting, etc.—never received so much attention. This side is considered by the optimist. It cannot fail to be observed that the most enthusiastic devotees of "out of doors" are city people. The country people often know less of the charms of the "country that God made" than the man or woman whose time is largely spent in town. This follows the time-proved theory that we do not see nor appreciate the sights that are nearest to us. Nowhere is this more noticeable than on the farms. How many people who live on a farm ever spend a moment in the woods? The average woman upon a farm rarely leaves the house except to drive to town upon some errand. Her life is spent indoors far more than is the life of her city sister. The gospel of relaxation by contact with Nature needs no advocate in a city. Every flag stone and brick wall pleads its cause. The country woman shuts much out of her life that would add grace and beauty were it thoroughly understood. A hammock under the trees, a work table in some shady spot will change toil to pleasure. Half the farm houses of our land have no piazzas or arrangements for sitting out of doors. People do not see that this can bring something real and tangible in the way of pleasure into their lives. Live out of doors. What if you must work! Half of it can be done out of doors if it is once thought of. Set the tea table under the trees. Avail yourselves of the pleasure that lies all around you. Look at the panorama of hills, forests, meadows and streams, not with eyes that are unseeing through very familiarity but as one would look at a rare painting. New beauties will develop through attention. We are too busy, too much the creatures of habit and work to appreciate freely the grace that God has given to the world about us. Return to first conditions and live more under the open sky. Life was never meant to be circumscribed by four walls.

On July 4, 1826, Thomas Jefferson, the great founder of democracy breathed his last. Seventy-three years have passed since then and on July 4, 1899, the American nation may well pause and examine some of the most significant facts of our history. Within the year past we have acquired territory that enables us to say literally that the sun never sets upon the stars and stripes. With the great increase of territory it is natural to examine some of the conditions of our early territorial acquisitions. When Jefferson became President the United States extended westward to the Mississippi river and south to the Gulf of Mexico and Florida. Jefferson was a close constructionist, believing in limiting the powers of the Federal government to those expressly stated in the Constitution. The purchase of the vast territory of Louisiana burst upon the people like a thunder clap. It was patent that the Constitution gave no such power to the general government. Jefferson declared that he stretched his power until it cracked and advised an amendment to the Constitution, giving the power to purchase territory. Jefferson showed how the true statesman is not bound by any written or unwritten law when he declared, "I believe that the people wish this done." The will of the people was the foundation stone of Jefferson's principles. He read the Constitution as he believed the people would wish it interpreted, that is, with an idea of close limitation of the powers delegated to a general government, but when public policy seemed to demand a seeming contradiction of his principles he did

not hesitate. This purchase and acquisition of territory furnished a precedent that has been followed. The purchase of Florida, the immense acquisition from the Mexican war, the Gadsden purchase and the Alaska purchase comprise the land acquired by purchase. Texas and Hawaii were acquired by annexation. The Mexican cession like the Philippines was acquired by conquest, with the addition of a money consideration. Porto Rico alone was acquired entirely by conquest. It is interesting to remember the man who died nearly three-quarters of a century ago, but to whom we owe the precedent of the power of the United States to acquire territory.

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MA LITTLE LUMP OF SWEETNESS.

A DARKEY SERENADE.

WORDS AND MUSIC BY W. G. WILMARTH.

*Tempo di Schottische.**Slow.*

1. De gold en moon am shin-in', De stars am twinklin' bright, Ma
2. Can't help but lub dat nig-ger, I knows he's all ma own. I



CHORUS.

Slow and plaintively.

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F. H. GILSON COMPANY, MUSIC TYPOGRAPHERS, BOSTON, U. S. A.

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CONDUCTED BY EVERETT G. WHEELMAN.

IT seems strange that any bicycler should need to ask what the letters "L. A. W." stand for, yet I have inquiries occasionally. Nothing could be more significant of the phenomenal growth of cycling than its invasion into the ranks of many large and prominent organizations.

The League of American Wheelmen is naturally the official organization of the wheelmen and wheelwomen of the United States. All members of the League are over twenty-one years old. The great army of unconnected riders are almost to a unit in favor of anything that will tend to give to riders the rights that the L. A. W. is fighting for, so it will readily be seen that the L. A. W. is an important organization in our national life.

In the fall of 1888 there appeared in one of the leading bicycle salesrooms of New York a wheel that excited an equal amount of curiosity in the ranks of the riders of the high wheel, or ordinary. It was an English model of the safety, with 30-inch wheels, solid tires and a frame of the "boneshaker" variety.

In 1889 the American manufacturers succumbed to the demand for the low wheel and for two years the struggle for supremacy between the high and low wheels engaged the attention of the cycling fraternity. It was an unequal fight, however, and in 1892, upon the introduction of the cushion tires the ordinaries were relegated to the attics or sold to second-hand dealers at a heavy discount. The acme of cycling enjoyment was reached in 1893 when pneumatic tires were placed on the market.

From that time the advance of the sport was rapid. The number of riders within the boundaries of what is now greater New York was estimated at 10,000 in 1891, of which number about fifty were women who, mounted upon the old solid-tired wheels, braved the storm of adverse criticism and ridicule and prayed for the emancipation of short skirts and bloomers

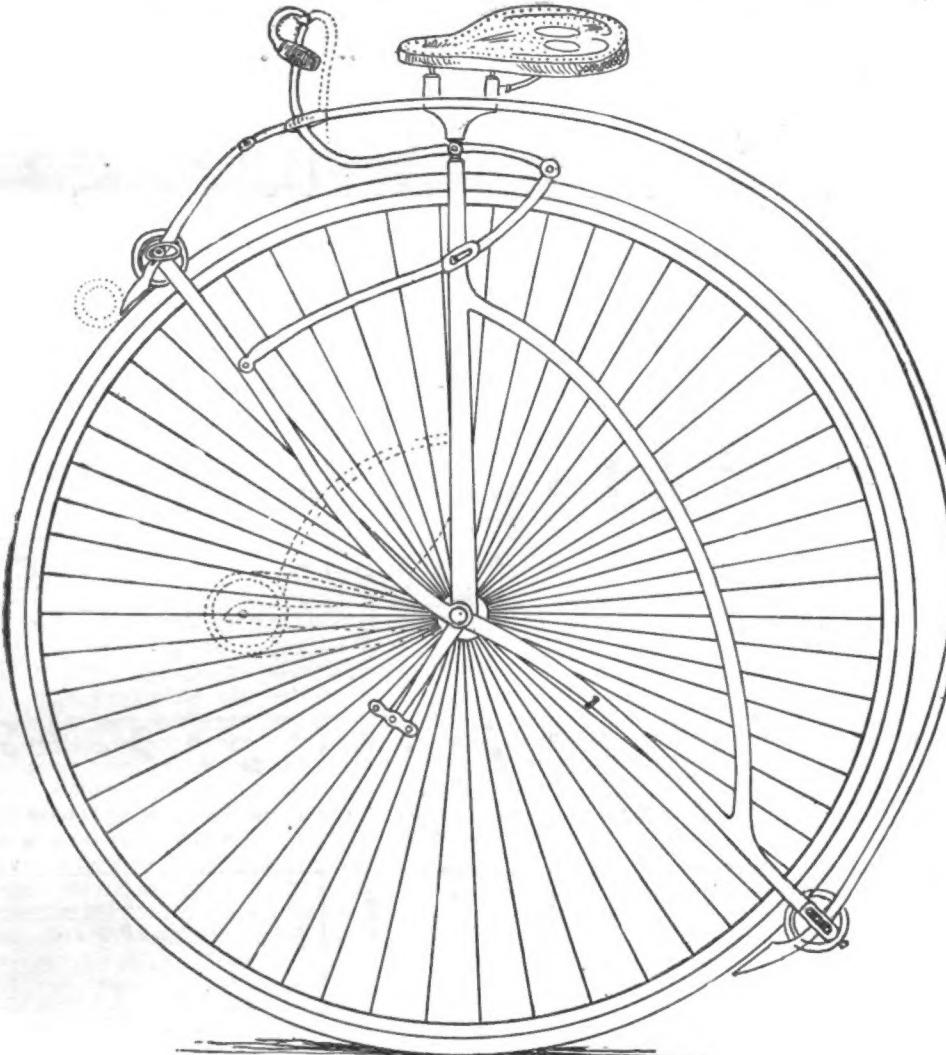
tire, surmounted by a saddle which is adjusted to an upright forked rod from the axle; a peripheral frame extending from near the ground at the back to a short distance in front of the saddle, to which are attached two small flanged friction wheels having slotted bearings adjustable by thumb screws and which exert unequal pressures on the tire surface. The rear flanged wheel is adjustably adherent to the tire, first, to furnish a sustaining point of contact with the main wheel; second, to prevent the backward rotation of the peripheral frame when loaded, and, third, to insure the vertical position of the saddle support.

The front flanged wheel is free—first acting as a brake in connection with the lever, second acting as a flanged guide wheel, and third, acting as an adjunct to the steering gear.

The adjustment of the saddle is arranged to permit the placing of the loadweight at a sufficient angle to the upright rod to counteract the forward gravitating movement acquired by the motion of the wheel as well as that due to frictional contact of the rear flanged wheel on the tire and any tendency to rotate the frame forward is immediately checked by the impact of the rear wheel on the tire as well as the depression of the forward wheel.

The peripheral rod is jointed to a small rod connecting with the forward flanged wheel. The object of this is to use the small wheel both as brake and steering gear. The handle bar is firmly attached to a curved rod which passes through a groove in the peripheral rod where it is secured by a bolt, and it extends some distance beyond, making a connection with a lateral rod which slides in a groove on an upright and serves to depress the forward lateral friction rod, causing the flanged wheel to press upon the tire surface as brake.

The unicycle is operated both by pedals attached to an axle and by sprocket wheel and chain, projection of the lateral rods serving as an attachment for the sprocket bearings. Its weight, eighteen pounds, is due to an increase of twelve inches in the diameter of the



THE UNICYCLE.

that has attended the progress of the up-to-date woman. To-day the number of riders in greater New York alone is estimated at 200,000, of which one-third are women, while there are at least two hundred bicycle dealers, and about one hundred more handle wheels as a side line. And this only one city, although a large one. What must we aggregate throughout the country! That the business has gone beyond the stage of a passing caprice and is firmly rooted among the leading industries of the country is evidenced by the high standing and business solidity of the firms handling bicycles. But a few years ago the wheels were handled almost exclusively by bicycle dealers while now you see wheels in the windows everywhere, and the evolution of the "chainless" has given us a new type and materially reduced the price of all bicycles. But we haven't reached the end yet. There are many practical bicycle experts who believe in the ultimate perfection of a unicycle which will make the "safety" of 1896 as much out of date as the high wheel of 1876 appears to be to-day. One of these inventive enthusiasts is Andrew Munro of New York, a mechanic, who has designed many accepted improvements in the bicycles of to-day. An illustration is given of his unicycle, which has been patented, and more than that ridden upon.

It consists of a single wheel with pneumatic

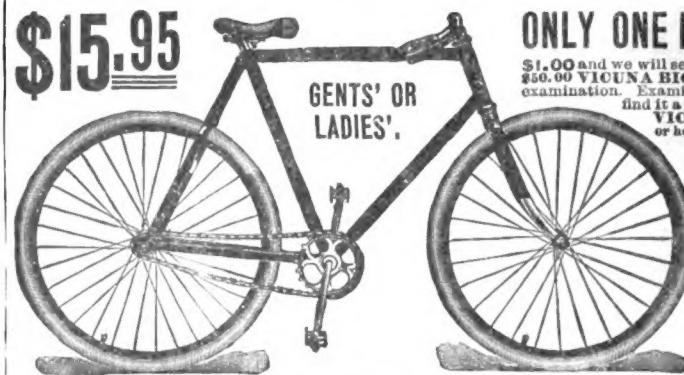
wheel and to the additional sprocket wheel and chain.

With the increased diameter and the sprocket attachment it is predicted that a revolution will be inaugurated in present racing records and extraordinary feats in fancy riding will be accomplished.

Anyway, it is plain that we have not reached the end of all inventions yet; and doubtless the Paris Exposition next year will show us many new things.

Do You Want a \$1.00 Fountain Pen for only 17 Cents?

We have it for you and will send you one only, on receipt of the above amount in stamps. O'ly account of the Bankruptcy of a large concern are we able to offer you this great bargain. These Fountain Pens are in a fine aluminum hexagon case all filled ready for use, and if you are supplied with one, you are never at a loss when desiring to sign your name or write an order. It is not a toy but a practical article for every man and woman, and within the reach of every school boy and girl. Try one and you will want your friends to share your pleasure with you. They are invaluable to School Teachers, Lumbermen, Boys who drive a delivery team, and Telegraph Messenger Boys. Send 17 cents, and we mail you one securely wrapped and guarantee satisfaction, and also give you a three months' subscription to *Comfort* with each Pen. Send to-day to Pen Department, *COMFORT*, Augusta, Maine.



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VISITOR to the gulf coast makes the statement that the pearl crop is worth from one-quarter of a million to a million dollars every year. The largest pearl ever found here was sold to the Emperor of Austria for ten thousand dollars. La Paz is the headquarters of the pearl industry, and from there the pearls are sent to the great jewel markets of the world, which are in London and Paris. The demand for fine pearls is always far ahead of the supply.

CARTRIDGE beer mug is one of the latest fads of a fashionable New York jeweler. The mugs are made from empty six-pound shells, which are a little more than three inches in diameter at the base and slightly narrower at the top. The opening is large enough to drink from comfortably. They are of brass, to stand the strain put upon them at the moment of explosion, and this brass will take a higher polish than the poorer grades of the metal, so that the mugs shine like gold. The only decoration is a silver band on the front, on which is engraved the history of the cartridge. Of course there are handles to these mugs.

MUSIC GIVEN AWAY.

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No more infernal tortures, no more roastings of the flesh with red hot irons, no more lightning shocks from the electric battery or dosings with dangerous drugs.

RHEUMATISM HAS BEEN CONQUERED by Oxen the triumph of medicine, the Godsend of the age. Absolute cures are now certain, and Oxen is making them every day. In this connection

WE HAVE A WORD TO SAY.

Oxen was last year put to the test as a remedy for Rheumatism and it made a record of absolute cures in Acute Rheumatism, frequently called rheumatic fever. Persevering application of the OXEN CURE to the heart, Endocarditis (inflammation of the lining membrane of the heart), subacute rheumatism, sometimes applied to the less severe attacks of the disease, chronic sciatica or neuralgia of the sciatic nerve. In fact Oxen is for joy and many write as follows:

Received OXEN O. K. Found it far superior to what you represent. Have tried everything I could hear of for rheumatism. For ten years I have been crippled up with this terrible disease. Laid in bed one whole year. Could not turn or feed myself. When I was able to walk on crutches (which I did for four years) was crooked and unable to straighten. Now I am well again. Yours sincerely, Geo. F. Lawton, Olympia, Wash.

This momentous offer we make in order to more thoroughly introduce this amazing rheumatism remedy in the United States and Canada. None but those who will give us their word that they either suffer from rheumatism, or are afraid of it, are entitled to free treatment. Therefore, if you want a box free, send at once, yes to-day. Write plainly as our clerks are badly rushed.

THE GIANT OXEN CO., Box 1120, Augusta, Maine.



MURK'S NOTE. The following rules govern the publication of matter in this department.

Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to *Comfort*, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on one side of the paper only.

\$10 CASH PRIZES \$10.

The following cash prizes will be paid monthly:

1st. For the best original letter	\$3.00
2nd. " second best original letter	2.50
3rd. " third " "	2.00
4th. " fourth " "	1.50
5th. " fifth " "	1.00

Competitors for these monthly cash prizes must comply with all the above rules, and in addition must bring at least one new Cousin into the *Comfort* circle; that is, they must send one new subscriber with each letter, together with 50 cents for a yearly subscription.

These cash prizes will be announced monthly in this department.

No premium will be given for subscriptions sent in under this Prize Offer.

All communications must be addressed to Aunt Minerva, care of *Comfort*, Augusta, Maine.

CASH PRIZE WINNERS.

M. W. Early,	\$3.00
Belle T. Osborne,	2.50
Mrs. Addie Cummings,	2.00
J. M. Carter,	1.50
Louella Spence,	1.00

EAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

How fast the months fly by! And now it is July, and too hot to read even a little bit of moralizing, so I am going to have mercy on my readers and start directly on our letter-reading. The first letter which turns up comes from "Old Virginia," and takes us away back to the early days in the Colonies in its reminiscences of Williamsburg.

"Amongst the numerous objects of interest in Williamsburg, the old Colonial Capital of Virginia, may be reckoned William and Mary College, the eldest college in the United States except Harvard. Its charter dates back to 1693, and it was named in honor of William of Orange and his wife Mary,



COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY.

who were the reigning sovereigns of England at that time. It was the first college in this country to introduce the modern system of class lectures, and to have chairs of law, modern languages and history, also the first to announce the elective system of study, and to award medals, viz. the Botetourt medal. On its rolls we find the names of many distinguished professors and students, and amongst its Chancellors are the names of Washington, Tyler and other illustrious men. The Brafferton School, which used to be an adjunct to William and Mary College, was originally built and endowed for the purpose of educating Indian youth, but it proved unsuccessful, as the minds of the young Indians had a much stronger bent towards warfare and the chase than towards study.

"The library of William and Mary College, which is adorned with many interesting portraits and relics of the past, contains about ten thousand volumes, some of them very valuable.

"It was in the old Williamsburg Capitol which was burned down in 1832, that Patrick Henry uttered his thrilling words, 'Cesar had his Brutus, Charles First his Cromwell, and George the Third may profit by their example.' Here also the Speaker of the House told Washington that 'his modesty equalled his merit.'

"Not far from here is the site of the old Raleigh Tavern which was destroyed by fire in 1860. Washington, Jefferson, Henry and other old heroes used to make this tavern their stopping place and rendezvous. Williamsburg claims the credit of having established the first asylum in this country exclusively for the insane. Special wards used to be set apart for the insane in other hospitals before separate asylums were provided for them.

"The first theatrical performance ever given in this country took place in Williamsburg. I have read in a number of the Virginia Gazette dated September 22, 1752, the following notice: 'On Friday last, the company of Comedians from England opened the theater in this city where The Merchant of Venice and The Anatomist were performed before a numerous and polite audience, with great applause.' I am not certain whether this was the first play ever performed there, but I am inclined to think it was."

M. W. EARLY, Wingina, Nelson Co., Va.

Now let us visit our southern friends again.

"Florida, the southernmost of the United States, first settled in 1565 at the place afterwards called St. Augustine, was discovered and explored by Ponce de Leon in 1512. He was hunting the fabled fountain of immortal youth. We are sorry that he did not explore the beautiful, sparkling Silver Spring, whose stream unites with the famous Ocklawaha, and afterwards with the St. Johns.

"Florida is rich in large deposits of phosphates, hence mining furnishes much occupation for her people. Fruit growing forms another of her great industries. Such fruits as the orange, guava, pine-apple, pear, plum, and peach are mostly grown. There are large forests of beautiful trees, such as the oak, pine, maple, cedar, and many others, in which the mocking bird sings all winter long, for our climate is generally warm and pleasant all the year round."

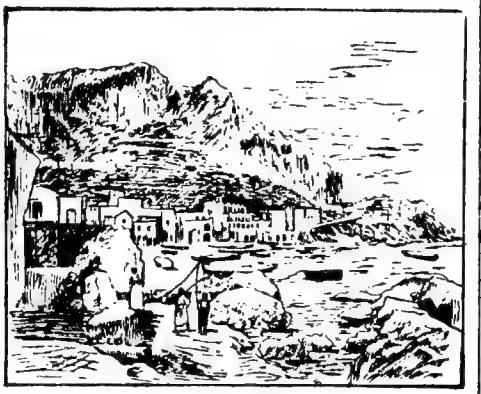
MARY F. HODGES, Heather, Fla.

Mary Simmons, of Connie, Chehalis Co., Wash. says: "I have taken *Comfort* for ten years and I like it. I have some religious papers to give away. Many of the cousins care for them."

Now let us, in imagination, take a sea voyage and land in beautiful Italy. We shall certainly enjoy the description of the cool "Blue Grotto," even if Naples and Sorrento do seem warm for the season.

"In Naples the regulation breakfast is coffee, with hot milk, three different kinds of bread, unsalted butter and honey. After breakfast we took a steamer for the Island of Capri. Here the boat waits while the passengers are taken in little skiffs into the Blue Grotto. This is a sort of watery cave in the rock. The entrance is very small and semi-circular in shape. The passenger slides down in the boat under the board seats, and the boatman takes hold of the upper part of the rock, and as a big wave dashes in he ducks his body very cleverly back and pulls the boat in. Inside everything is blue, the most peculiar blue that you can imagine. The sunlight seems to come through from the bottom of the water, and a boy in swimming is reflected on the wall.

"After visiting the Grotto we went to the town of Capri, where the steamer remains while we lunch and drive through the town and up the mountain side, which gives a fine view of the bay and the surrounding country. The roads here are all made of smooth stone and are very good. Along the wayside, in apparently the wildest places, are niches hewn out of the solid rock, in each of which is the marble statue of some saint which the people worship by laying flowers and other offerings at their feet. Above the heads of the statues are lamps which are lighted at night. All these, with beautiful fig, orange and lemon trees growing in abundance, tend to make the scene picturesque, while in the distance are plainly to be seen the ruins of the castle of Tiberius, which is at the eastern extremity of the island.



"Leaving Capri, we took the steamer to Sorrento. There are about a dozen hotels here and each one sends off small boats to meet the steamer; the greatest confusion prevails, and you are relieved when you are safely landed. This place is celebrated as the birthplace of the poet Tasso, and you find him everywhere—from the butter pat to the marble bust.

"Our hotel had formerly been an old castle, built on the edge of the rocks overhanging the bay; the other three sides encircling the most ideal court and gardens imaginable. We walked through tunnels hewn out of the solid rock by the Romans centuries ago; emerging from the darkness into sunlight and flowers, only to make another turn into another tunnel, then up broad marble steps through odd passages until we reached the sixth story where were our rooms. The Garden of Eden could not have been lovelier than this one in Sorrento. We wandered along mossy paths, amid stately palms and magnificent lemon trees with long, glossy leaves and yellow fruit, and among rose trees which were in the full beauty of their bloom. Suddenly we would come upon a rustic arbor, a marble vase or a statue, or perhaps, ascending marble steps overhung with orange blossoms come to a court in which was a party of young men and women dressed in bright-colored costumes dancing the national dance, the Tarantell. This dance belongs to Sorrento, and is a sort of quadrille, the girls using tambourines and the men bones. They dance about and around each other, with the most charming bows, polaces, and grace imaginable. It is all careless, bright, and apparently enjoyable, and the picture is an ideal one."

BELLE T. OSBORNE, Atlantic, Iowa.

I have read with interest S. H. Carnahan's letter on "The Schools of the Prophets," but do not find it quite suited to our page.

I also thank Bert B. Cook for the story he sent me, but as my page is not for stories I cannot use it.

We certainly have the advantage of most travelers, for we can transfer ourselves from Sorrento to the St. Lawrence River at a moment's warning, and we shall doubtless enjoy the change from foreign lands to our own country. I, for one, am always ready to sing "Home, Sweet Home."

"Let me tell your readers of our Thousand Isles of the river St. Lawrence. 'Thousand Isles' they are called, though river guides say that there are more than double that number now, owing to the low water in the river. I live upon one of these islands—Grindstone—so called by the Indians on account of the excellent quality of the stone found here for use as grindstones. This stone is red granite, and is said to be the finest in the world. It cannot be excelled for monumental purposes or for street paving. The quarries have been worked extensively in the past, but are now lying idle owing to the inability of the Company to compete with the Asphalt Company. Still, we feel confident that people will soon learn that granite, although expensive at first, is far more durable for street paving than asphalt, and so our quarries will again be worked.

"We have a road through the center of our island called the 'Base-Line.' This was formerly the boundary line between the United States and Canada. In later years a new survey was made and a boundary line was placed on our northern coast. In the Patriot War of 1837-38 this island was made the hiding place of a number of leaders of the rebellion. In later years their secret hiding place was revealed.



"As every one knows, this river is one of the most famous summer resorts in the world, and bears the name of the 'Rhine of America.' With its beautiful scenery and excellent fishing the river islands have nearly all been purchased and improved. Wealth has been lavishly expended on them. One of the many lovely homes here is 'Castle Rest,' the summer home of the late palace car king, Mr. Pullman. The castle and towers are built of stone in the rough, just as it was gathered up from the earth, in every conceivable shape, and laid by the masons without any use of a hammer in the construction. A more irregular surface can scarcely be conceived, but though very odd it is also very beautiful. Some have taken small rocks project-

ing from the water, encircled them with a sea-wall of rough stone and filled the space so enclosed with earth on which they have planted trees.

"Last year the State Department, finding that the islands were all passing into private hands, leaving none for use as public parks, reserved for itself several spots for such use, and have now transformed them into well shaded parks with good landing facilities which are open to all."

MRS. ADDIE CUMMINGS, GRINDSTONE, N. Y.

The following description of an old-time ocean voyage sounds oddly enough to us who are accustomed to the modern steamer.

"Will you admit a new niece to your charming circle? I wonder if any of the nieces and nephews ever crossed the ocean in a sailing vessel? Such a trip would be quite a novelty in these days of fast steamers. It has been my good fortune to have taken two such voyages—one, made when a little girl of nine or ten, I want to tell you about.

"We went from New York to Buenos Ayres, S. A. We started in January, and the ship had to be cut out of the ice in the harbor. Not long after leaving New York a dreadful storm arose, and I distinctly remember hearing the dishes falling out of the shelves as the ship lurched from side to side, the cabin table—which was fastened to the floor—go over with a crash. But he who controls both wind and wave brought us safely through; and after that we had delightful weather, reaching Montevideo in thirty-eight days after leaving New York; a very quick passage for a sailing vessel. From there we took a river steamer up to Buenos Ayres.

"Two incidents of this voyage are vividly impressed on memory, one is my tenth birthday which came a few weeks after leaving New York. The captain hoisted all the flags on the ship, fired off a small cannon he had on board and ordered a plum pudding for dinner in honor of the event. The other incident was the visit of Neptune on the captain used to talk mysteriously of the coming of Neptune to initiate the passengers into his domain, and on the day we crossed the line a small boat appeared at the ship's side and some strange-looking men fantastically dressed came on board; and the leader, after whispering with the captain, came to the passengers and pretended to read a long paper and take their names, telling them they must be initiated, but finally let them off, and seizing the cabin boy took him to the lower deck where stood a tub of water with a plank across it; after blacking his face they blindfolded him and set him on the plank, one of their number tipped up, giving him a ducking. Of course it was the sailors dressed up who had lowered a boat and rowed around the ship pretending to be Neptune and his followers. At night they set a barrel on fire and threw it overboard, the captain telling us it was old Neptune going off to visit other ships.

"Over six years later, when we returned, our voyage lasted nearly three months from the time we left Rosario, on the banks of the Paraná, in May, till we reached Boston about the middle of July, and a most delightful trip it was; no storms, but fair weather nearly all the way. We saw lots of flying fish, porpoises, and one or two large whales. Then at night we saw myriads of those wonderful little animalcules that shine with a phosphorescent light making the sea appear as if it was on fire all around the ship. We also sailed through the Sargasso sea, where the ship is surrounded with vast quantities of seaweed. I should like to tell the cousins something of the customs in that far off land, but my letter is already too long."

J. M. CARTER, Delhi, N. Y.

Our next letter is a description of a typical summer amusement, boat-racing, but this southern race is, in some respects, different from those at the north.

"An event of much interest to the pleasure-loving people along our coast is the annual regatta that takes place during August or September at Bay St. Louis, Miss. During the preceding month the boats are repaired, repainted and made to look as trim as possible before being entered for the races. A fee of \$5—more or less, according to the class of boats—is charged for entering a boat for a race, and this money is used to buy the prizes and also to keep up the club-house and the expenses of a regatta. The prizes are medals, money and silver cups and sometimes other things.

"The day of the regatta is a gala one indeed, and is eagerly looked forward to from year to year and the town is crowded with able and ardent yachtsmen and visitors from all the coast towns and near-by cities.

"Of course the success of the races depends upon the good winds, and these are found to be most fav-



orables in the early afternoon. The boats are numbered and it is a pretty sight to watch them—large and small—with their snow white sails making them look like great birds flying over the water.

"Managers time the start of each race, and half-way of the course is a stake boat and as each sailing boat passes her a record of the time made is registered and given the judges at the close of the races. All kinds of boats are allowed to compete. The Mobile Yacht Club and the celebrated Southern Yacht Club of New Orleans, send entries to this regatta; pleasure yachts, coal and lumber schooners, cat boats and many others enter the races and in each class a prize is offered for the fastest sailing boat.

"When the boats come in what cheering for the winners! and after there are suppers on board the yachts and a grand ball is given at the largest hotel or at the club house, which is built over the water half a mile from shore. Smaller dances are given at private homes and these places are decorated with numerous flags and gayly colored Chinese lanterns and when these are lighted at night the places look like fairy land. The prizes are awarded amid cheers and hearty good will, refreshments are served and 'the play is over' at a late hour."

LOUILLA SPENCE, Pass Christian, Miss.

Our next letter tells us of the construction of a broom, but our cousin does not tell us where she has seen them made, so we must guess at that.

"Did you ever see a broom made? The broomcorn is cut, just above the smooth stem, into lengths. A little machine is used, with a spool of fine strong wire attached. To this machine, through a groove, the handle is fastened and the wire made firm. Then a quantity of cut corn is taken up and wired around one end to form a handle, the wire being wound firmly and straightly, till the broom is of the requisite thickness. The last layers are left with the top of the stalk split and adjusted so that the wire can be turned in a fanciful manner and fastened to the wood handle."

ELIZABETH J. WILSON, Beverly, Mass.

"It was the day before Oklahoma was to be declared open for settlement. For months people had been coming in from every direction toward the free land. The streets of Winfield and Arkansas City were thronged and the prairie schooners formed one continuous line from Winfield to Arkansas City—a distance of fifteen miles, along the boundary line which divided Kansas from No Man's Land.

"Night came on and there was not much abatement of the tumult. The moon shone clear and bright and at intervals all night long the clattering of horses' hoofs could be heard and a man,

sometimes two or five would come in sight and gallop off down into the promised land.

"The next day, before the signal gun was fired to declare Oklahoma open for settlement, thousands of men, women and children, restless with suspense and strained almost to frenzy with excitement, were ready to rush pell-mell into the declared land for a claim.

"At last the signal was given and a regular stampede commenced, each trying to be first to get to the best claims. Cartes were upset, wheels snatched from wagons and people trampled under foot in the melee. The first claim was taken by a woman, who, rushing across the line with a large flag in her hand planted it upon a splendid claim, then shouted wildly, 'This claim is taken!'

"Ere the sun set on that day every claim that was of any worth was taken and some claims had two and three contestants. Some got their rights and some did not."

GEORGE JOHNSON, Burlington, Kan.

I must thank for letters received Mrs. Donald Macaulay, Chester Co., Ga.; Mrs. Jack Boiling, Hartshorne, Ind. Ter.; Miss Jane Dean and John Bertrand.

Now my space is full and I think, too, that my readers have all they can enjoy at one time in this hot weather, so I will bid you all good-by for another month.

AUNT MINERVA.

A CASE OF PERFUMERY FOR YOU.

We have a great quantity of perfumery in cases which we wish to give to our friends without expense. It is most delicate and lasting and combines the various perfumes and fragrance of the flowers. Placed in a bureau drawer will impart delicious odor to all clothing, kerchiefs, etc. Sweeter than the magnonette. Send us four cents pay for shipping expenses and will send it with copy of our illustrated bargain book.



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

THE following "Notes" from Lee McCrae of Indianapolis, will be very acceptable to the Bees, we are sure, who will thank her for the sensible suggestions therein:

A child's thimble makes an admirable glove darning when that convenient little article is misplaced.

If the home dressmaker would iron out her paper patterns just before using, her cutting would be much easier and more exact.

Try the curved nail scissors for cutting out hamburg edgings.

When a kid glove begins to cut at the end, usually over the fingernail, insert a piece of kid to match on the inside, catching it to the seams. If neatly done it will not be clumsy looking, and it will delay the break for weeks.

The woman who would be economical and at the same time save herself many an annoyance, should select one size and shade of stationary, and resolutely stick to it. Then there will be no box full of paper and envelopes that look like a sample case, and refuse utterly to "keep company" with one another.

How often we have heard that we must shake all medicines before taking, yet few of us know the chief reason. Besides the fact that many ingredients do not mix well, and that the heavier, which settles to the bottom, may be rank poison when taken alone—many remedies (and all patent medicines,) have alcohol put in to preserve them. It forms a layer on the top, effectually corking the contents from the air; hence, if the bottle is not shaken, one may get a full dose of pure spirits.

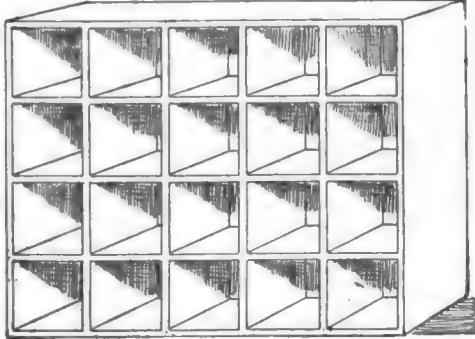
The fashionable hat could never be trimmed by amateurs. It is a scheme of the milliners, and would be entirely successful but for the fact that they reckoned without their sailors. Let the girl of small pocketbook and large wits invest in a trim white sailor of the best quality and the usual black band; but for the sake of a long suffering public, do not let her inflict that monotonous hat upon it every day of the week. It and her upper bureau drawer form a whole millinery store. Change No. 1; Let her fasten a white band and a smart bow tightly around it. Then a fringed Roman tie knotted loosely, or a pretty dotted veil to match her suit. A pink or scarlet band softened by a dainty white veil is a still prettier effect while the veil may be caught at one side by a bunch of sweet peas or any flower particularly suited to her taste and attire. By changing it frequently she becomes the envy of her companions who "can have only one hat because they are so expensive," and who always looks the same.

"E. J. C." of Emporia Kansas, has kindly donated the following description of a pretty rug, which will also be received with thanks by the Bees. She says:

"I will tell the Bees of a rug that is both useful and ornamental, and costs so little that any one could afford to have several like it. The material was scraps of soft woolen goods that were left when dresses were made, and were of every color and shape imaginable; several

coarse thread (No. 8) and pushed up close enough to make a round roll like chenille. The colors were placed hit or miss, and were not sewed together like carpet rags, but the ends were lapped one upon another and gathered through them. Part of the dress skirts were dyed red, and part brown with diamond dye, cut in strips and gathered like the others, keeping each color separate. They were then taken to a weaver who furnished the chain and wove it like rag carpet, except that only half the usual amount of chain was used. It is twenty-seven inches wide and one and one-fourth yards long. The hit or miss part was used for the center, with a border of red and brown stripes across the ends. This rug was taken to a county fair last fall and came back bearing a blue ribbon, which announced the fact that it had been awarded the first prize in that department. These rugs are very durable, and plenty of material for making them may be found in every house, for pieces that are too small for anything else can be used in this way. The center may be of a plain color if preferred, with a border of some bright color that will harmonize with it."

Now for a few of our own ideas. We trust the one of a sleeveless nightgown will be both new and acceptable to our readers, for it is the most comfortable garment imaginable, for summer wear. Take the advice of one who knows what she is saying, and make one before another sunsets—for it takes only a few hours of time, if one is deaf with the needle. Use English long cloth, which is fine and soft and without dressing; cut with opening for the head and arms, like a chemise, having the neck large enough to admit of gathering quite full across the front and back, making the neck as low as one likes; of course it cannot be very high, without having an opening down the back or front of the gown, as the head could not pass through. It is supposed to be low enough to admit of the head passing through with no other opening. Put a full ruffle of fine hamburg edging six inches deep around this neck opening, and above it put an inch wide insertion, through which run satin ribbon. Around the arms eyes gather the hamburg in the same manner, omitting even the faintest hint of a sleeve. If it is desired to make a more elaborate gown, put rows of the insertion across the front of the



SHOE BOX.

gown. This garment is exactly like a chemise, except that it is long. Trimmings of soft imitation val. lace are very satisfactory, as they do not take up as much starch as hamburg does, when laundered, and of course are for that reason more comfortable—for what is more irritating than stiff frills on a nightgown. Of course gowns of this kind can be varied in a number of ways, and when one has made one, it is very easy to make more. Those for sale in the shops have a short puff for the sleeve, instead of the fall of embroidery only, but are not as pretty, nor are they as comfortable and cool. Made in delicate colors, of nainsook, they are exquisite—though I think a dainty woman usually prefers white for all her underwear.

Now that we are on this subject, a recent bride had a sachet for her nightgowns, which was made of white satin, large and slightly padded and perfumed with violets. On the upper side her name was embroidered. The case was tied with satin ribbons.

We give an illustration of a shoe box, which, while not being exactly a thing of beauty, is a most convenient affair. Every woman knows that her shoes, if kept on the floor of her closet are always in disorder and in the way, also covered with dust. If she has a bag fastened to the wall or to the closet door, it is always sticking out in the way, or else falling down, or the shoes are falling out. Now here is an idea, original with us, which any one can have. The one in question is built at the end of a closet, taking up the whole width of the closet, which is thirty-eight inches wide. The height of this box is twenty-two inches, and the individual boxes, or pigeon-holes are eight inches deep and five inches high. There is no back to the box—simply a set of pigeon-holes set in against the wall of the closet, and fastened there. In this way the shoes are kept out of the way and perfectly free from dust and quite accessible, and yet only eight inches of space has been taken from the depth of the closet.

The well-known heavy dyke on the Holland coast was built by the winds themselves.

It rests with you whether you continue the nerve-killing tobacco habit. NO-TO-BAC removes the desire for tobacco, without nervous distress, expels nicotine, purifies the blood, restores lost manhood, makes you strong in health, nerve and pocket. NO-TO-BAC from your own druggist, who will furnish it, will cure you. Take it with a will, patiently, persistently. One box, \$1, usually cures; 3 boxes, \$2.50, guaranteed to cure, or we refund money. Sterling Remedy Co., Chicago, Montreal, New York.

"SLIP ON" DRESS SHIELD

The only dress shield made to wear with silk waist and shirt waists, but can be worn with any kind, hence it is cheaper to buy as it does the service of a dozen dress shields. It slips on and off as you will—no sewing, no pinning. Being elastic, it fits anyone, is comfortable and makes you stand erect, because it acts as a shoulder-brace. The "Slip On" Dress Shield is neatly made of light, strong waterproof cloth, and may be kept clean and fresh by sponging. You can't do this with any other dress shield. Regular Price, 60 cts. Special Price, 30 cts.

AGENTS WANTED. Our agents will make from \$500 to \$1,000 a week. Write to Mr. L. D. Howe, Dept. of Merchandise, "Slip-On" Dress Shield, 1616 N. Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill. Sold 16 in. in one week and made \$85.00. J. LEE, Omaha Bldg., Chicago.

Please mention COMFORT when you write.



SLEEVELESS NIGHTGOWN.

partly worn cashmere and flannel skirts; children's dresses, and anything else of that kind that I could find. These were saved until I had a cracker box full before I began to work. The small pieces were cut into strips one and one-half inches wide, and any length. Then they were gathered through the middle upon a

5½ oz.

HIGH bred buff cochin hen at Nashville, Tenn., recently broke the record for laying large and heavy eggs. The largest one weighed five and one-half ounces, the circumference being ten inches the long way and five and three-quarters around. This egg, which is perfect in shape, has been preserved and presented to the Museum of the Southern Illinois Normal University at Carbondale.



ENIZENS of the desert will not drink pure water; they say pure running water makes them violently ill, while the most poisonous looking water agrees with them. It is said that stagnant water at first produces nausea and fever, but when once the system has become used to it, it has no such effect, while pure water affects the system in this way after using the stagnant.

Epileptic FITS

Can Be Cured.

If you suffer from Epilepsy, Fits, Spasms, Spells, Falling Sickness, St. Vitus's Dance, &c., have children, relatives, friends or neighbors that do so, or know people that are afflicted, my New Discovery, Epilepticide, will give immediate relief and PERMANENTLY CURE them, and all you are asked to do is to send for a FREE Bottle and try it. It has cured thousands where everything else failed. My 90-page illustrated Book, "Epilepsy Permanently Cured," FREE.

When writing, please mention reading this in COMFORT and give name, AGE and full address.

All correspondence professionally confidential.

W. H. MAY, M. D.,
May Laboratory, - 94 Pine St., New York City.
Always Mention COMFORT When You Write.

FOR MEN ONLY.

Free Trial Package of This New Discovery Mailed to Every Man Sending Name and Address—Quickly Restores Strength and Vigor.

Free trial packages of a most remarkable remedy are being mailed to all who will write the State Medical Institute. They cured so many men who had battled for years against the mental and physical suffering of lost manhood that the Institute has decided to distribute free trial packages to all who write. It is a home treatment and all men who suffer with any form of sexual weakness resulting from youthful folly, premature loss of strength and memory, weak back, varicose, or emaciation of parts can now cure themselves at home.

The remedy has a peculiarly grateful effect of warmth and seems to act direct to the desired location giving strength and development just where it is needed. It cures all the ills and troubles that come from years of misuse of the natural functions and has been an absolute success in all cases. A request to the State Medical Institute, 730 First National Bank Building, Ft. Wayne, Ind., stating that you desire one of their free trial packages will be complied with promptly. The Institute is desirous of reaching that great class of men who are unable to leave home to be treated and the free sample will enable them to see how easy it is to be cured of sexual weakness when the proper remedies are employed. The Institute makes no restrictions. Any man who writes will be sent a free sample, carefully sealed in a plain package so that its recipient need have no fear of embarrassment or publicity. Readers are requested to write without delay.

50c MADE IN A MINUTE! If you will hang up in the P. O., or some public place, the two show bills that we send, we will give you a 50c. cert. and send it in advance with sample and bills. This will trouble you about one minute, and then if you want to work on salary at \$500 or \$100 per month, let us know. We pay in advance.

STARTLING REVELATION.

The Remarkable Achievements of Prof. Weltmer, the Great Healer, Are Causing Universal Astonishment.

The Nineteenth Century has been correctly termed the most important in scientific advancement and mental development, but no new discovery in any line at this time attracting such widespread attention as Prof. Weltmer's Method of Magnetic Healing. In fact, the phenomenal cures made by him during the past two years have been so remarkably astounding and wonderful as to demand the attention of scientific and medical men all over the world. His method of treatment banishes disease as if by magic. Hon. Press Irons, Mayor of Nevada, was afflicted with kidney and bladder troubles for ten years and could find no relief in the usual remedies. In one week he was completely restored by Prof. Weltmer. Not only does this remarkable man cure hundreds in his infirmary, but he possesses the ability to cure at a distance, and all cures made by this method are equally permanent. Mrs. Jessie L. Linch, Lakeview, Mo., was for two years afflicted with ulceration of the womb, heart and stomach troubles. In less than 30 days she was cured. Mrs. M. M. Walker, Poca, W. Va., suffered severely with female troubles and eczema and was entirely restored by Prof. Weltmer in a month. Thousands of other sufferers all over the land have been restored in the same manner. This is positively the only known cure for lost vitality and kindred ailments. Send for a copy of the Magnetic Journal, a 40-page illustrated magazine, giving a long list of the most astounding cures ever performed. It is sent free.

TEACHES HIS ART TO OTHERS. Prof. Weltmer teaches his wonderful art to others, and it is the grandest and best paying profession of the age. Many of his students are making \$10.00 to \$50.00 per day. Taught by mail or personal instructions. Address, Prof. S. A. Weltmer, Nevada, Mo., The American School of Magnetic Healing.

This beautiful gold plate Ring or a Band Ring, Bracelet or shirt Waist Set to anyone who will send us \$1.00 each. Write to us and state that you will sell Pins postage paid. When sold refund \$1.00 and we will mail the premium. M. R. COMPANY, 86 RANDOLPH STREET, Dept. 6, CHICAGO.

LADIES WANTED to take up stamping at home. We pay 10 cents an hour while learning. H. F. JONES, Dept. I, Brooklyn, N. Y.

FITS DR. S. PERKEY, Chicago, Ill.

FREE Our Magnificent Catalogue No. 70, of Ladies' Outer Garments. Edward E. Grossman & Co., 170-172 State St., Chicago.

BEAUTY PINS. A pair of Gold-Plated ones. These choice Ladies pins are needed in every household, there are one thousand and one uses for them. No woman or child is ever considered ill dressed without two or more of these useful and ornamental pins. We are selling thousands of them and in order to introduce SUNSHINE into new homes and acquaint all with the necessity of this new style pin, will send one pair free to all who send 10c. for a three months subscription to our great monthly. Great profits may be realized selling them for shirt waists and other spinning and sewing articles. Buttons being entirely done away with by happy innovation. Send 10c. today and get your subscription and pair of Beauty pins free. Address SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.

50c MADE IN A MINUTE! If you will hang up in the P. O., or some public place, the two show bills that we send, we will give you a 50c. cert. and send it in advance with sample and bills. This will trouble you about one minute, and then if you want to work on salary at \$500 or \$100 per month, let us know. We pay in advance.

GIANT OXIE CO., 125 Willow St., Augusta, Me.

RUPTURE SURE CURE at home; a small cost. No operation, pain, danger or detention from work. No return of Rupture or further use for Trusses. A complete, radical cure to all (old or young) easy to use, thousands cured, book free (sealed).

DR. W. S. RICE, Box C, Adams, N. Y.

SEND US ONE DOLLAR and the ad. and we will send you this big 25-lb. iron 1899 pattern high grade RESERVOIR COAL AND WOOD COOK STOVE, by freight C.O.D., subject to examination.

Examine it at your freight depot and if found perfectly satisfactory and the greatest stove bargain you ever saw, pay the freight agent our SPECIAL PRICE, \$13.00 less the freight, with order, or \$12.00 and freight charges. This stove is size No. 8, oven is 16x18x11, top is 42x33; made from best pig iron, extra large flues, heavy covers, heavy linings and grates, large oven shelf, heavy tin-lined oven door, handsome nickel-plated ornaments and trimmings, extra large deep grease Standish porcelain lined reservoir, handsome large ornamental base. Best coal burner made, and from furnish FREIGHT FREE. Good money item, worth buying. WE ISSUE A BINDING GUARANTEE with every stove, and guarantee safe delivery to your railroad station. Your local dealer would charge you \$25.00 for such a stove; the freight is only about \$1.00 for each 500 miles, so we save you at least \$16. Address SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., Inc., CHICAGO, Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable—Editor.

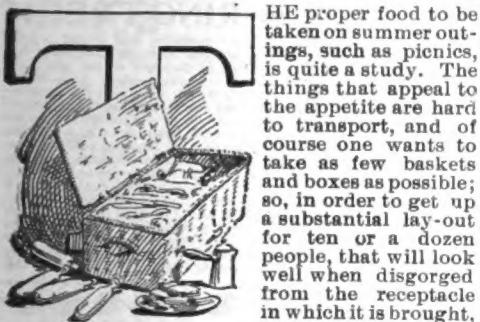
WRITE FOR OUR BIG FREE STOVE CATALOGUE.

ACME BIRD



KITCHEN CHATS.

CONDUCTED BY AUNT SARAH.



HE proper food to be taken on summer outings, such as picnics, is quite a study. The things that appeal to the appetite are hard to transport, and of course one wants to take as few baskets and boxes as possible; so, in order to get up a substantial lay-out for ten or a dozen people, that will look well when disgorged from the receptacle in which it is brought, is quite a problem.

For sandwiches, make some of plain bread and butter, to be eaten with the preserves or currant jelly which should be among the good things. Some should also be made with a thin slice of cheese (Swiss preferably) between two unbuttered slices of bread. Make some also of ham, chicken, salmon or lettuce. Cut off all crusts, pack the sandwiches closely and compactly into boxes which have nothing else in them but sandwiches, first laying a wet napkin into the box to keep them moist and soft.

A salad of some kind is almost a necessity, as it gives the necessary acid to the repast. A vegetable salad of lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers and radishes, mixed with a French dressing is delicious at such a time; chicken or lobster salad, also salmon salad, mixed with mayonnaise dressing is next best. Eggs in some form should be there, either hard boiled and served in the shell with pepper and salt, or arranged before starting from home, in a large flat box, on lettuce leaves. The eggs should first be boiled hard, left to cool, and the shells removed, the eggs cut in halves, the yolks taken out without destroying the shape of the white part, and mixed with small amount of mayonnaise dressing; then returned to the white part carefully and smoothed off, and each half placed upon its bed of lettuce. Place lettuce leaves over the top, when the box is full, and then fasten the cover on to the box so the eggs will not be disturbed in transportation; then serve them from the box.

Sardines are appetizing at such a lunch, when of course crackers and lemons should keep them company. The dried beef which comes put up so nicely in small boxes, is also an addition which is easy to carry.

Something sweet to finish off the repast should be at hand for those who care for it, though as a rule sweets aren't much cared for at outdoor suppers. Berries can be taken along very nicely in the baskets in which they are bought, and sugar in a box.

The small and large flat boxes which come from the caterers during the year, when extras are bought, should be saved for the summer picnics, as they are light and easy to carry, and when used can be thrown away, and so lessen the luggage to be carried home.

It is good idea to make a punch before leaving home, carrying it in a preserve jar and adding water and ice after everything else is ready. A good rule to follow is to use the juice of twelve lemons and two oranges, and two cups of sugar. Then cut into this two bananas, some strawberries and some slices of lemon and orange. If desired a pint of claret may be added, which, with two quarts of water added just as it is to be served, makes a rich and delicious punch.

Now for a home salad which we think will be new to most of our readers.

HAM SALAD.

Soak one-half tablespoonful granulated gelatin in one and one-half tablespoonfuls cold water; then dissolve in three-quarters of a cup of hot chicken liquor. Strain over one cup cooked and chopped ham and stir, letting it stand in ice water, until the mixture thickens. Fold in one cup thick cream beaten stiff and a few grains of paprika and salt if needed. Put into a mould, a ring mould preferred, and before serving fill the center with fresh lettuce leaves. Pass mayonnaise dressing with this salad, when served.

RUSSIAN SALAD.

Take one cup each of cold, boiled carrots, potatoes, peas and string beans. Cut the potatoes, carrots and beans into small pieces and pour over them and the peas separately French dressing. Arrange each vegetable by itself on a platter, in a nest of lettuce leaves. Then on the top of one of the sections pile some finely chopped beet, previously boiled; on the next section the finely chopped whites of hard boiled eggs; on the third the yolks of these eggs, mashed through a fine sieve, and on the last some smoked salmon. Use mayonnaise dressing, if preferred to the French.

GREEN-PEA SALAD.

Cook a pint of young peas with a tablespoonful of butter and as little salted water as

possible, stirring constantly until the peas are tender and the water evaporated. Let them cool. Arrange on a serving dish some fresh lettuce; over this spread a cup and a half of finely chopped cold lamb or chicken. Pour the peas over the meat. Mix together six tablespoonfuls oil, one-half teaspoonful salt and a little pepper; add gradually three tablespoonfuls lemon juice or vinegar and pour this dressing over the salad. Sprinkle the whole with mint leaves, chopped very fine.

CABBAGE SALAD.

Chop finely a head of white cabbage; pour over this a French dressing, or one made of one cup vinegar, two tablespoons sugar, a little salt, paprika, mustard and the yolk of one hard-boiled egg, rubbed fine. Let the mixture stand in a cold place for two hours. Have ready some boiled beets, cold; chop them fine and pour over them enough vinegar to cover, letting this mixture stand the same length of time. Serve individually on good-sized plates; pile in the center of each plate some of the cabbage; around this put a ring of the pickled beet, and then garnish with a wreath of parsley around the edge and a small sprig standing up from the center. Red cabbage may be used in the same way, but in place of the beets use a ring of hard-boiled eggs cut in slices; garnish with parsley.

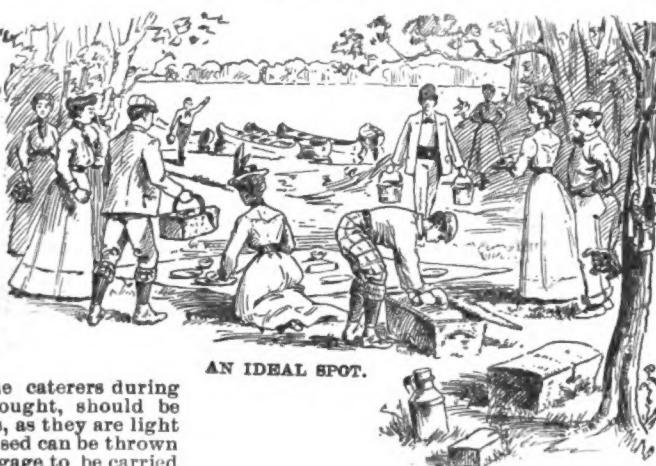
DANDELION SALAD.

Almost every one is fond of dandelion greens, but how many have ever tried the leaves without their being cooked? Some one who has, says they make a delicious salad. Use only the perfectly fresh, crisp leaves and dress them with oil, lemon juice, salt and pepper. Add to these a little grated horseradish, if it is liked, or vary the dressing in any way desired, and so add another to the list of green salads.

An idea was lately evolved by a bright young person, who gave what she called a "progressive luncheon." On the covers of half of those present lay a letter "S," and the hostess arose to explain that this signified that the persons sitting at these places at table were to change seats at each course, with the second person on the left—that is, was to "skip" one, each course, and so, in time, would be far removed from the ones who were neighbors at the beginning of the meal. This gave every one a chance to meet every one else, and so no one got out of ideas of subjects for conversation, for they could say the same things over again, if hard pressed, as the neighbor would be a new one in each case.

We recently heard some one complaining of their kitchen being over-run with little red ants. An easy way to get rid of them is to take small pieces of coarse sponge, sprinkle sugar in the cavities and place them where the ants are seen. Large numbers will collect on the sponges, and they should then be picked up quickly and carefully and dropped into a dish of hot water, which should be ready for that purpose. Repeat this operation and all the ants will soon be disposed of. We wish we had as effective and easy a remedy to suggest for the extermination of water-bugs, with which some one else is afflicted. She has tried all of the so-called effectual remedies on the market, but cannot get entirely rid of them. We shall be very grateful if our readers can suggest something for this perplexed housewife to do in order to rid her kitchen of these horrid things.

It is said that Lilli Lehman, the great singer, follows this bill of fare daily: At 7:30 a. m. she has a glass of milk with rye bread and a little fruit; at noon, vegetable soup and a plate of vegetables; at 4 o'clock in the afternoon a glass of milk, and at seven in the even-



AN IDEAL SPOT.

ing some green salad, two eggs, or some cheese. Sometimes during the day she eats fruit. When she is to sing at night she takes a plate of rice at noon, and eats nothing more until after the opera—usually about midnight. Once in a great while she drinks a glass of beer with a friend, but very rarely. As will be seen, she is a vegetarian.

The first postage stamp in the world was issued by Great Britain. It consisted of an allegorical design representing Britannia sending letters to all parts of the world.



KIDNEYS & BLADDER CURE FREE
If suffering from any disease of the above organs why do you delay proper medical treatment? Each week adds to your danger; binds the fetters of misery more closely around you and renders the cure more protracted. Send address and I will mail you free of charge a sample package of a genuine remedy which has cured thousands of the worst forms of these complaints. Dr. D. A. WILLIAMS, Box 6, East Hampton, Conn.

FREE HELP FOR WEAK MEN

"CALTHOS"

Prof. Laborde's Marvelous French Cure for Lost Manhood.

FIVE DAYS' TRIAL TREATMENT

Sent Absolutely Free by Sealed Mail To All Sufferers.

NO C. O. D. OR DEPOSIT SCHEME.

The only preparation known to science which really cures Lost Manhood is "CALTHOS," the marvelous French remedy discovered by Prof. Jules Laborde. It is controlled in this country by The Von Mohl Company, of Cincinnati, Ohio, a concern which occupies a high and honorable place in the world of medicine. It is one of the largest and most responsible houses in Cincinnati, as anyone who is acquainted in that city will testify.

The Von Mohl Company invites all men suffering from Lost Manhood, Spermatorrhea, Varicocele, Small Parts or Weakness of any nature in the Nerves or Sexual Organs, to send their names and receive five days' treatment. This will prove the wonderful vitalizing powers of "CALTHOS." After using it five days the sufferers will find new vigor in their organs, new force in their muscles, new blood in their veins, new ambition, and rapid progress toward the buoyant feelings and sensations of younger days.

This liberal free offer is genuine. There is no swindling C. O. D. or Deposit Scheme connected with it. The five days' treatment is sent by sealed mail to all on request, wrapped in a plain package, and full printed instructions accompany the medicine, so that each patient becomes his own doctor and cures himself at home.

It doesn't make any difference what caused the weakness—whether bad habits in youth, or excess, or over-work, or business troubles. "CALTHOS" will effect a cure, no matter what big name the disease may be called by doctors.

The Von Mohl Company treats all correspondence in perfect confidence. Under no conditions will it make public the names of the thousands who have written testimonials telling of their restoration to robust manhood after other medicines and appliances have proved worthless. "CALTHOS" is regularly used in the French and German armies, and the soldiers in those countries have come to be perfect models of strength and vitality. Cures are effected at all ages from twenty to eighty years. There is no case (except where the stage of epilepsy or insanity has been reached) which it will not radically, quickly and permanently cure. Sexual weakness does not cure itself. It grows worse from week to week. Each day aggravates the mental and physical anguish.

Send today for the free five days' trial treatment. If it helps you, more of the medicine can be purchased. If it does not help, no harm is done and no money has been paid out. You can send your name in the full knowledge that it will be kept from all. The "CALTHOS" department of our business is strictly confidential. Address applications for trial treatment, etc., to

THE VON MOHL COMPANY, 304 B, Cincinnati, O. | Largest Importers of Standard Preparations in the United States.



How to Reduce It

Mrs. L. Lanier, Mrs.

the Queen, writes:

"Reduced my weight 25 lbs. in 15 days without any unpleasant effects whatever." Purely vegetable, and harmless as water. Any one can make it at home at little expense. No starving. No sickness. We will mail a box of it and full particulars in a plain sealed package for 4 cents for postage, etc. HALL CHEMICAL CO. R Box St. Louis, Mo.

LIFE COMPLETE IN LOVE, MARRIAGE AND BUSINESS, AS PREDICTED BY ASTROLOGY. Read TIME OF YOUR BIRTH AND YOUR PROFOUND FUTURE. PROF. BENEFER, MEDFORD, MASS.

Shirt Waist and Dress Pin Set

FREE.



This beautiful embossed basket work silver finish set will be sent free to anyone who will sell two boxes of our Active Liver Pills at 25c. each. We give this valuable and beautiful set to reward you for speaking a good word for our medicine which acts quick and cures Constipation, Dyspepsia, Malaria, Rheumatism, Nervous disorders, etc., etc. We send the two boxes of Liver Pills free all charges paid you simply sell them 25c. each, send the 50c. to us and we forward the complete set all charges paid. You can easily sell it for 50c. If you so desire, the bar pin alone is worth more than the cost of the Pills—but we adopt this method to get our Great Family Remedy before the people quickly. THE G. O. PILL CO., Augusta, Maine.

HAIR LIKE THIS

WE WILL FORWARD

---FREE---

To any address, full information how to grow hair upon the baldest head, stop hair falling, cure weak eyebrows and eyelashes, scanty parting, scurf, dandruff, itching scalp, and restore gray and faded hair to its natural color. Enclose 2 cent stamp to prepay postage. Address: P. Lorimer & Co., 334 N. Howard St., Baltimore, Md.

COMBINATION DIPPER. Seven useful articles in one. Samples FREE, prepaid, to AGENTS. Other articles new and catchy. Write, postal will do. RUNDELL MFY., CORNING, N. Y.

Marriage PAPER FREE, many very rich. EASTERN AGENCY 54, Bridgeport, Ct.

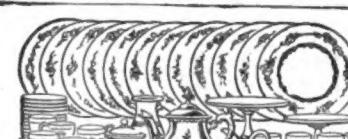
FREE To one reliable person in every town or village, a 56-piece Dinner Set. P. F. Co., Box 2617, N. Y. C.



\$100.00 FOR NAMING TABLETS

To any person who will arrange those Twelve Tablets into a name of the most popular remedy in America we will give \$100.00. Use no other letters but those given in the box. Should more than one person succeed in finding the correct name the \$100.00 will be equally divided and paid August 31, 1899.

OTHER PRIZES. In addition every contestant will receive free our Beautiful Doree Pearl Plates at \$1.00. Send no money, only two stamps for postage expenses of 25c. and sample box. Send Doree Tablets as our object is to spend \$2,000 in this novel advertising. We are reliable and refer to any bank in Philadelphia or newspaper in America. Doree Chemical Co., Philadelphia, Pa.



TEA SET

56 PIECES.

Full size for family use, beautifully decorated & most artistic design. A rare chance. You can get this handsome china tea set & one dozen silver plated tea spoons for selling our Pills. We mean what we say & will give this beautiful tea set absolutely free if you comply with the extraordinary offer we send every person taking advantage of this advertisement. To quickly sell our Vegetable Pills, a sure cure for constipation, indigestion & torpid liver, if you agree to sell only six boxes of Pills at 25c. a box we to-day and mail to you, one dozen Silver plated tea spoons together with our offer of 56 pieces tea set same day money is received. This is a liberal inducement to every lady in the land and all who received the spoon and tea set for selling our Pills are delighted. AMERICAN MEDICINE COMPANY, Dept. Q, 30 WEST 13th St., NEW YORK CITY.



Two Thousand Packages Shelled Peanuts

SENT FREE.

SELL 12 PACKAGES AND GET A WATCH.

The art of shelling and salting peanuts has just reached perfection. As a confection they are peerless, as a food unequalled. German scientists have spent years experimenting with Peanut flour. It is found to contain three times the nutriment of wheat; and whole salted peanuts, being so much more palatable than wheat, have also been found with a slight addition of Pepsin Salt to be a sure cure for Dyspepsia and other stomach, kidney and liver troubles. Yes, even persons with Bright's Disease or Diabetes can now be cured. It is only necessary for old or young to eat a few of our Pepin Salted Peanuts after meals to keep in perfect health—but they can also eat in any quantity as a confection without the least distress or trouble to the weakest stomach. Children delight to feast on them and they are much better than candy. They also cure Heart Burn and Insomnia.

To Form Part of the Treat Refreshments at gatherings, sociables, etc., they are indispensable, and to have them on the table as dessert is the mark of form. Everyone oils properly treated as they are in our special process of Curing and Roasting Peanuts, and to keep well in any climate. FREE We will send two thousand packages of these Pepin Salted Peanuts out to respond to all sensible parties who furnish proper references. You sell 12 cent packages and get a watch, a guaranteed good timekeeper. But to first introduce them quickly we send one package as a sample free to any one enclosing six cents for a three months' subscription to COMFORT. You can then test them and see how many packages you want to start with. No attention paid to first orders without trial & subscription. Write at once and be among the first to get the free packages.

Address, COMFORT FOOD DEPT. C, Augusta, Maine.



Here's a summer greeting to you all, my dears, with not only the warmth of your Cousin Marion's sincerity in it, but the warmth of the middle month of summer also. Still we ought to have the fragrance of the June roses in our hearts and that is always good in all kinds of weather.

The first cousin in the list is Nellie Gray of Blue Ridge, Ga., and Nellie wants to know if the young man she loves loves her, would he tell her so or must she encourage him by showing him that she loves him. I can hardly understand a girl being silly enough to ask a question like this, but somehow most of them are, bless their hearts, and I don't see how it is to be stopped. Dear, dear Nellie, don't you know you shouldn't have fallen in love first? Why didn't you wait as women must? Since you have not, you must suffer, and I am sure that if he loved you he would tell you so. Men always do that if they are at all in love.

Ida M. C., Portersville, W. Va.—This is not a "correspondent wanted" column nor can I give you the information you seek.

P. A. M., Gray, N. Y.—Be careful how you ask conundrums unless you know the real answers.

Estella, Red Bud, Kan.—"The Wandering Jew," so called, is a creature of fiction and was not heard of until twelve hundred years after Christ.

Maybell J., Monticello, Ills.—Write to the Managers of the theaters in Chicago and St. Louis enclosing stamp for reply from each one to whom you write. My advice to you most earnestly is to save your postage.

Subscriber, Bristol, Tenn.—Here are a few names for a bicycle club: Bristolia, Wheelerina, Cycleria, or any one of a dozen names of local interest about your neighborhood.

Ruby and Marie, La Moure, N. D.—A girl of sixteen may go to the opera with a man over twenty, but her mother should be of the party. In fact it should be her mother's party. (2) In the smaller towns and cities a business acquaintance is recognized, though people don't as a rule meet socially unless formally introduced.

Inquirer, Manitowoc, Wis.—Consult your family physician on the subject of hypnotism and its practice. (2) The only way to learn what papers buy stories is to send your stories around till they are bought.

Blue Eyes, Milton, W. Va.—It is embarrassing for a skirt to come unfastened in a public place, but there is nothing to do but trust to your woman's tact and the help of the other women around. And there isn't anything to say. Etiquette fails to prescribe any set rules for such trying ordeals.

C. H. M. E., Davenport, Ia.—You might take off your mourning and go to the wedding in all white, but you had better ask your friends about it, for opinions and customs differ. As to what a bride receives there is also a wide difference in opinion and custom.

Kate, Westport, Pa.—I should most emphatically say that five girls should not call on young men at their club, however briefly they remained or whatever their business.

B. B., Tuscola, Ills.—Why should you want to send a tender poem to a young man who has not written to you for three months? Don't you think it would be nicer to wait until he sent the poetry to you? Don't bother the young man with yourself; there is nothing more disagreeable to a man than the girl he doesn't want who wants him.

Anna and May, Poland, N. Y.—The hair is nearly red and nearly any color may be worn with it except shades and tints of red. Wear your hair in the style most becoming to you, even if it is not quite the prevailing fashion. (2) The United States has not yet adopted a national flower.

M. A. C., Magnolia, Miss.—Twenty-nine is an excellent age at which to marry, and you ought to be glad you have lived single so long. I haven't space to answer all the details you ask about weddings. Any arrangement that pleases you most is the best one. (2) Introduce the groom-to-be to two or three of the young men in your town and let him ask them.

Peggy and Patty, Brimfield, Ills.—Girls of sixteen are yet of "school age" and should be in school not "in company." (2) The custom of permitting the man to take the lady's arm is so awkward and bad that I wouldn't do it if all the people in my town did. (3) There are many good and safe face powders. I have no especial choice.

Katie, New Orleans, La.—The etiquette governing the wedding of a divorced woman is the same as if she had never been married. (2) A doctor's patient need not worry over any seeming slights she may think he observes. If he is at all interested in her he will let her know. If he is a bit jealous, all the better. But don't be too anxious to have a jealous man forever nagging you.

Addie B., Bagwell, Texas.—Your questions can not be answered until Judgment Day and then not by me.

Lily and Irene, Holland, Miss.—Ask your fathers and your brothers. They can tell you better than I can.

L. E. B., Lincoln, Nebraska.—Ask your family physician to give you the address of a reliable dermatologist and write to him. Ask him for the cause.

Daisy Dell, Roswell, N. M.—There is no set form of remarks when a young man puts a silver heart on a girl's bracelet. His heart or his gallantry ought to tell him what to say. 16 to 1 he loves her.

W. E. B., Monmouth, Ills.—In a way, yes, there is such a thing as love at first sight, but love of slower growth is less risky, as a rule. (2) No, I do not believe that somewhere in the world the only man waits for the only woman, or the reverse. Too many people marry three or four times for that theory to hold.

Carrie V. N., Leroy, Minn.—Don't worry about the music you will lose. If you love it sufficiently well to suffer enough for its loss, you will find a way to keep it up.

Pearl Baker, Beulah, N. M.—Write to any well-known jeweler, in Santa Fe for the information, inclosing postage for reply.

Bena, Fountain City, Ind.—The "minute points" is social usage that you ask for cannot be told to you. They must be acquired by practice. Go on as you are going, always observant and always studying what is the best and you will learn it better than the book can teach you. You will also learn what are the best books to read on the subject of etiquette.

Jacinto, Honitos, Texas.—When a man and two

girls are all equally in love with each other, it is a safe thing for each of them to go and find an entire stranger to marry.

Self Culture, Hillsdale, Canada.—It is proper enough for a young lady to receive the calls of other men when she is engaged, but not advisable for her to go walking with any except her affianced. (2) Make the men keep their distance always. Permit no liberties. (3) Don't know about the people you ask for and cannot learn. Don't know handwriting.

Silver Gray, Red Oak, Mo.—By all means give him the mitten in the presence of his mother. A woman of her age ought to know better than to wear her son to marry a girl of sixteen.

Perplexed, Pueblo, Col.—It is not improper to wave to a man when he is too far away to speak to, but it isn't necessary, usually. (2) Don't have your picture in his watch case unless you are engaged to him. (3) How often does the man call "once in a while" who wants to kiss you that often? Suppose you ask your father or guardian and tell him the man's name. (3) Always turn to the right in meeting people, if you can.

Blossom, Peoria, Ill.—Eighteen year old girls wear their dresses full length and their hair not hanging down their back, even if it is a little short.

Bells, Denver, Col.—Long engagements are not considered good, because when two people love each other enough to become engaged they should marry and take their proper place in the social fabric.

Sunflower, Hoxie, Kans.—It is all right not to invite the parents of the groom to a wedding at the residence of the bride's parents if there is a row between the families, but not otherwise.

J. R. D., Ashwood, Tenn.—It is quite correct to be kissed by the man to whom you are engaged to be married. His mother and sisters should call on you or you can go to see them.

Bertie B., Hazard, Neb.—You did perfectly right in refusing to let the young man go home with you after his ungentlemanly conduct in church. If he wants to argue the point, tell him you will ask his own sister or his mother what they think. (2) The lady always takes the man's arm.

Ella, Cottage Home, Tenn.—See answer to J. R. D. second above this. (2) The man always gives the girl an engagement ring no matter how poor he is. If he can't do that much he isn't any earthly good.

Now, dears, that answers the last one, and I am glad to see that you are all improving. May you keep cool until we meet again.

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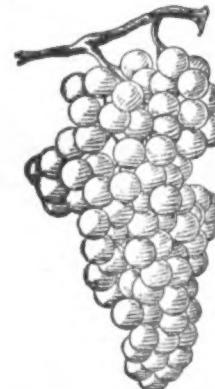
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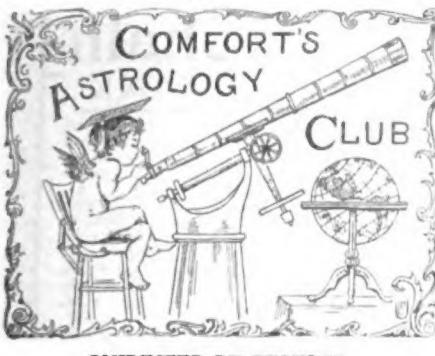


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CONDUCTED BY REGULUS.



HE heavenly speculum at the New Moon, which occurs at about twenty minutes of seven o'clock in the morning, Washington Mean time, on the 6th day of August, 1899, shows the first degrees of Virgo rising and the 28th degree of Taurus culminating. The lunation falls in the 14th degree of the sign Leo in the middle of the house; Saturn and Herschel are in the 4th house; Neptune is in the 10th; Venus is on the cusp of the 12th. Mars is in the 2nd in benevolent aspect with Venus and Herschel who are in benevolent trine with each other; Jupiter is in the 3rd house in square with Venus but in benevolent sextile with Mercury who is ruler of the scheme and just rising in the east at the time of the conduction.

Mercury, ruler of the figure, is strongly placed and is well supported by the great benefic who dispenses of both Saturn and Herschel, the last of which afflicts Mercury. The ruler so placed according to the books presignifies pleasant and wholesome air, comfortable and seasonable showers and rains and plenty of the fruits of the earth, though the presence of the great malefics in the 4th prevents the fullest realization of those benefits from Mother Earth in certain sections of our country, though cannot prevail at large against the general promises of good to the whole country.

Mars in the 2nd, though not afflicting, but rather supporting the other heavenly bodies, makes some unusual drafts upon the Nation's exchequer, probably for purposes of warfare or payment for war service; there will be a liberal distribution of the Nation's funds among the people both for labor and material for armament or defensive works, though the square of Herschel to Mercury, promises some severe criticism from the "eccentrics" and fault-finders.

Venus in sextile with Mars and squared by Jupiter points to an unusual inclination towards the pleasures and recreations of life during the lunation, attended by too wasteful expenditures for such sports. Jupiter and Mercury indicates that men shall be ingenious and inventive, and prosperous and successful in their short journeys, also harmonious dealings with our neighbors in the northeast, especially in questions involving our fisheries in those directions.

The action of the great malefics in Sagittarius caution against increased prevalence of liver and bowel disorders and though quarantine regulations may work annoyances in some quarters the sanitary authorities should not neglect such necessary precautions as will prevent the introduction of any epidemic disease involving those parts of the body. Scientific and literary men meet with some unusual difficulties in the lunation and the obituary of the month will be likely to obtain the names of some very eminent persons, especially near the 20th and 27th of August and around the 5th and 12th of September.

The month brings the great malefics to their stationary positions in Sagittarius from the 11th to 25th and it is apprehended that Spain will pass through another phase of the political disease that has for many months afflicted her, and as Mars begins his transit through Libra at the time of this lunation we may reasonably look for unusual trouble for Austria and Hungary, and some outbreak or disasters in Chinese regions.

CELESTIAL CALENDAR FOR AUGUST, 1899.

AUGUST. 1—Tuesday. Deceptive appearances and baffling hindrances are likely in the real estate transactions of this day; give thy landlord a wide berth nor have anything to do with persons who are engaged in trade in coal, lumber, wood, agricultural products or who are in the laborious or dirty avocations; little permanent advantage will result from undertakings commenced at this time; be slow to make purchases for trade nor should wearing apparel be now bought for personal use.

2—Wednesday. Disputes and quarrels are easy of birth in the morning hours when no surgical operations should be performed, especially upon the hands or arms or in the abdominal regions; let all efforts be pushed vigorously as the noon time is passed; have dealings with persons in the literary walks of life, bookellers, stationers, printers, commercial men, bankers, judges, and persons of wealth and station. Purchase goods for trade, launch literary productions, travel, and concern thyself with writings, contracts, accounts, and all educational work; hire help, do correspondence and otherwise employ the strictly mental faculties, even late into the night hours.

3—Thursday. A day greatly to be avoided for wooing and ladies should be wary of new faces now presenting themselves among their suitors; those who wed on this day will have cause to repeat their act, unless the nativities were exceptionally good radically; do not make any new beginning of consequence on this day, nor expect any favor from money lenders, public officers or railway employees.

4—Friday. Quite a fortunate day for music, painting and the fine arts generally; the influences are quite propitious for most things, but particularly in the last half of the day for dealings with military men, druggists, glass-manufacturers and those engaged in the ingenious and mechanical trades; deal in cattle, metals, chemicals, machinery, tools, explosives, and all electrical goods.

5—Saturday. Continue thine efforts of yesterday throughout this day but do not make any purchases for speculative purposes; let the musician and artist earnestly improve the morning hours, and commercial men trading in wearing apparel or wares that please and gratify mankind should urge their sales to the utmost. Better than ordinary success attends mercantile, commercial, and literary affairs just now in the lives of persons born about the 4th of March, 6th or 23rd of April, 25th of June, 6th of September, 9th or 26th of October, or the 25th of December, of past years; but the contrary is likely to persons born about the 22nd of February, 24th of May or 25th of November, of past years, as they are likely to be having temporary mental anxieties, controversies or annoyances in correspondence.

6—Sunday. One of the promising Sabbath days of the month, particularly conducive to the success of pulpit efforts; the religious discourse will be earnest and eloquent.

7—Monday. Bright and prosperous are the conditions of this day; authors are particularly favored and publishers and dealers in scientific, literary or artistic works or productions should vigorously improve every moment; use the time for urging all honorable transactions, but especially mental efforts and the beginning and pursuit of all literary undertakings and generally for the planning of all enterprises of moment, business arrangements, commercial contracts, journeys, educational schemes, stock and monetary programmes and ecclesiastical or judicial deliberations and decisions; have negotiations with banks and monied men; purchase goods for trade and speculate if thy nativity also favors.

8—Tuesday. Thy petition for advantage at the hands of officers of large corporations or from persons

noted for marked peculiarity of habit or dress will find less than usual favor during the early forenoon of this day when also thou shouldst not be misled by the glamor of appearances in the enterprises then presenting themselves; the day is better after the morning and should be vigorously used for urging all thine undertakings.

9—Wednesday. The early and late hours are the poorest and ought not to be chosen for inaugurating any new venture; the very early hours are peculiarly mischievous in the production of fires and bad accidents involving hurts to human beings; let all have care in this respect that carelessness does not permit such occurrences in the night hours between the 8th and 9th; the middle hours of the day are to be given the preference for the best efforts in all honorable pursuits.

10—Thursday. Do not be over-sensitive or become involved in disputes during the very early morning, when have no dealings with persons in the mechanical callings or manufacturing enterprises; the balance of the day invites the seeking of favor from heads of departments and public officials and the vigorous prosecution of thy works and enterprises pertaining to the literary and scientific world and to the elegant avocations in life; conditions encourage special activity in dealing in fancy goods, jewelry, perfumes, silks and all articles of adornment. Begin thy journey, take recreation and seek pleasure and amusement; the afternoon promises very favorably for the matrimonial engagements or for the solemnization of the marital relations.

11—Friday. This day is peculiarly favorable for dealings in real estate and for all manner of contracts looking to its improvement and for all agricultural undertakings. Money negotiations pertaining to houses and lands, and trading in productions of the earth are favored in an unusual degree on this day, and REGULUS advises his friends to fully use the time as indicated. Consult thy dentist at this time.

12—Saturday. Another of the excellent days of the month; REGULUS advises all of his friends to take advantage of this day and enter with zeal upon their various pursuits in life; buy goods for trade, engage in new enterprises, speculate if the nativity is fairly favorable; deal with judges, counsellors, ecclesiastics, and traders in wool and woollens.

13—Sunday. An unfavorable Sabbath day for the exercises appropriate, and generally for the literary and artistic classes; the hours tend more to arde pleasure-seeking and personal gratifications.

14—Monday. The week opens with a very evil day and REGULUS cautions his friends against entering at this time upon any new business or enterprise, for nothing now begun will prosper nor should any permanent benefit or advantage be expected from the general transactions of the day; do not travel if it can be avoided and beware of incurring the displeasure of those in authority; government officials and officers of railroads and other large corporations will not be favorably disposed. If this be the anniversary of thy birthday, do thou exercise extraordinary care in all thine acts for several weeks to come and particular caution is prompted to diet and such habits as give plethora or aggravate heart weakness.

15—Tuesday. Begin thy labors early and urge to the utmost all the mechanical and chemical pursuits; deal in metals, cattle, leather, drugs, hardware and cutlery and initiate thine undertakings in the manufacturing lines.

16—Wednesday. Avoid thy landlord in the morning when also have no dealings concerned with lands, mines, or agricultural products; seek favor from persons in authority during the middle hours of the day, and urge all literary engagements, correspondence, and commercial contracts after 10 o'clock in the morning. Mental efforts will prove more satisfactory than usual in the evening unless the nativity is radically adverse in that respect.

17—Thursday. Give preference to the first half of the day for the vigorous prosecution of all honorable business; buy thy goods for trade, and deal with banks and persons of wealth, also lawyers, judges and ecclesiastics; the afternoon inauguates a train of mischievous conditions conducive to strife and controversy in matters then begun, and ought not to be taken for any beginning of consequence.

18—Friday. The afternoon is the best part of this day and should be given preference for dealings pertaining to the articles of adornment and decoration and for matters concerned with the elegant and artistic in life.

19—Saturday. Hold on to the pennies during the forenoon when no purchases should be made for speculation; as the noon is approached let all the mechanical and chemical pursuits be urged to their utmost; deal in metals, cattle, and the chemicals also with cutlers, surgeons, bakers, barbers, tailors, tanners and carpenters; consult thy dentist and experiment in chemistry.

20—Sunday. The early morning hours are the best; the noon and afternoon are mischievous and likely to interfere with domestic tranquility and contributing to strife and disruption in both the social and more tender relations.

21—Monday. Vigorously use the middle hours of this day, especially for replenishing thy stock in trade, dealing in wool and woollens, having money transactions, and generally crowding all honorable pursuits; be guarded against disputes in the evening.

22—Tuesday. An unpromising day; discouraging for the purse and embarrassing to the progress of enterprises. REGULUS advises all who were born about the 13th of January, 7th of March, 20 of May, 8th of June, 15th of July, 10th of September, 29th of November, or the 9th of December, of past years, to exercise extraordinary care in matters of both health and finance for a season; misfortunes are easy of birth under these conditions and disorders in business affairs, discord or bereavement in the family circle, and low physical conditions are among some of the trials under prevailing influences in such lives; the passing time is, however, more favorable than otherwise for persons born about the 5th of February or April, 6th of August, or 12th of October of past years, conducting to financial betterment through dealings in landed property or from the estates of deceased persons or from dealings in agricultural or mining products and promoting physical improvement from out-of-door recreations and amusements.

23—Wednesday. Use the first two-thirds of the day for thy best efforts, but look out as the afternoon advances not to become involved in any dispute or controversy; keep the temper and be not over-sensitive in thy dealings with associates.

24—Thursday. One of the best days in the month for beginnings of all kinds and REGULUS charges his friends to make beginnings here in all new undertakings and to urge all honorable pursuits, especially such as pertain to the literary affairs, or commerce in any of its branches; deal with the artist, musician, and all in the polite callings; bargain and sell houses and lands; purchase materials for manufacture and merchandise for trade; seek money accommodations and deal with persons of wealth and standing. Rarely do influences combine so favorably as on this day and it is earnestly recommended for full employment. It is peculiarly favorable as a birthday anniversary and gives promise of great good to those who claim it.

25—Friday. Seek favors from persons in public places during the morning hours, but look out for bad losses as the noon is passed and see that no purchases are then made for goods to be sold again. Urge thy sales of fancy and ornamental wares at this time.

26—Saturday. Give preference to the forenoon for forwarding thy ventures already in hand, but do not make any new enterprises; defer matters of much importance in the literary pursuits; do not sign writings or make engagements or contracts; the evening is very evil for any mental efforts and invites watchfulness against deceit and treacherous actions.

27—Sunday. Unfavorable for church matters; strange troubles come at this time and pulpit efforts will not be notable for soundness of either logic or judgment; public or railway affairs are not likely to be peaceful or prosperous in these passing days and bad accidents are to be guarded against in travel.

28—Monday. Drive thy business vigorously on this until the evening, especially if concerned with the mechanical pursuits or inventions; deal with military men, machinists, surgeons, tanners, and electricians; make experiments with chemicals and with electrical apparatus; have care in the late afternoon in all real estate dealings which are best deferred for a season.

29—Tuesday. Be up betimes and waste no moments of this day; bright and prosperous are the conditions for the commercial world and for money transactions of magnitude. REGULUS advises his friends to improve every moment; buy goods for trade; engage in new enterprises and deal with banks, judges, counsellors and traders in wool and woollens.

30—Wednesday. Continue thy vigorous prosecution of business during this day until the evening; have money transactions in the forenoon when also crowd every honorable undertaking; the evening is baffling and disappointing.

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31—Thursday. Disputes are likely to mar the events of the early morning unless the tongue be held well under control; the day is to be avoided for any kind of a matrimonial contract and the artistic and dramatic pursuits are all "under a ban" for a season; expect no favor from the fair sex nor from thy dealings in artistic or decorative wares.

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PROFESSOR SCHURMAN.

The detachment of Admiral Dewey from the Asiatic station and the appointment of Rear Admiral Watson in his place, will not bring any change in the intentions of the Government toward the insurgents. It is unfortunate that Admiral Dewey is obliged to come home leaving any questions unsettled, for our own people, as well as the Filipinos, believe him a man of broad mind and one who will always do as he says. With three civilians appointed by the President, Admiral Dewey and General Otis formed the Philippine Commission; Professor John Gould Schurman, a man of fine mind, is its President. The Filipinos have sent several commissions to treat with the Commission; but so far as General Otis is concerned they have promptly and continually been met with no terms but those of unconditional surrender.

It is reported in the newspapers that there is friction between the military and civil ends of our Commission; that Schurman by allowing the Filipino envoys to enter Manila to negotiate has given them a standing and encouragement that they should not have had; and that as a consequence they have been lionized by the local residents to such an extent that they now believe themselves much stronger than they are. The Eastern mind has never been able to understand or appreciate toleration, and when it is shown them they invariably look upon such an action as a sign of fear. So it is told that the civilians on the Commission have by encouraging these informal envoys just so far given aid to the enemy and retarded the arrival of peace, which a month ago seemed certain at an early day but is now apparently far off, although the proclamation defining the intentions of our government, issued by the Commissioners is being very well received.

Whether or not this information is correct, there has been considerable clamor in certain parts of the press for an instant recall of our envoys.

These emissaries which were sent by General Luna to General Otis for terms and to request a cessation of hostilities, came from his army beyond Calumpit, which our readers will remember was one of the stands of Aguinaldo as a capital and where an army of 20,000 men were gathered and were driven from as strong entrenchments as could be devised. Two or three sets of these envoys came into our lines, but each time were found to have no definite authority but were simply messengers. Many wild rumors have been in circulation that Luna and Pinar del Rio, the insurgent generals, had deposed Aguinaldo from command. It is evident, however, that General Luna is the man most looked up to by the Filipino people at the present time. So many stories are told the Filipinos that many of them still believe the Americans are really being beaten and driven

gather in the difficulties even to standing together in the hand to hand fights. Notwithstanding stories coming from European sources to the contrary the administration has stood behind Admiral Kautz. It is somewhat a matter of regret that the *Philadelphia* has been ordered homeward, but the *Newark*, which was designated to relieve her is about as strong a ship. The Germans protest against this vessel being sent to Apia, as we already have a couple of auxiliary cruisers there. It is claimed that a stronger American force will make the insurgent Samoans restive.

One of the most noticeable events of the month was the departure of the flagship *Olympia* from Manila, homeward bound, bearing Admiral Dewey. As the great ship left the harbor salute after salute rang out from forts and the shipping of all nations. The scene is reported as having been intensely thrilling from its wild enthusiasm. As the cruiser disappeared in the distance signals of good cheer flew over every ship. The first stop was Hong Kong where the *Olympia* was docked and painted. Admiral Dewey is ill from the strain of the year past and the voyage home will be leisurely. Probably no living man has met with such ovations as will hail him. The English ports will be particularly jubilant on account of the Anglo-American good intent which prevails and this will prove an agreeable way to show good feeling. While no definite itinerary has been given out, the *Olympia* will arrive in New York about October 1st, and the grandest reception given the Admiral that ever met a conquering hero. Already preparations on a magnificent scale are being made in the metropolis.

In Cuba events are slowly progressing which will bring the people into closer relations with the States. Gen. Gomez has assisted our military Governor in the distribution of the \$3,000,000 appropriated for payment of Cuban soldiers. For some time it looked as if none of them were willing to turn in their arms. Gen. Gomez was repudiated by the soldiers and ex-officers were particularly fierce in their threats. Gen. Brooke, however, firmly went ahead and upon his signifying his intention to return the money to the United States, the Cubans tumbled over each other in haste to obtain the \$75 per man. The better class of Cubans and Spaniards see the progressive steps of our government and how much is being done for the island's welfare and appreciate it, and are readily adapting themselves to the new conditions. Our postal service, schools and honest administration of public office are revelations to them. If trouble arises it



GENERAL LUNA.

will come from the lazy, thieving half-breeds and full-blooded negroes who were formerly slaves. A wholesome lesson, which is sure to come at no very distant date, to show the strength of America is something that COMFORT trusts President McKinley will not hesitate to administer when necessary. This class of individuals are mentally unable to appre-



PLAZA AND CHURCH, CALUMPIT.

from the islands. As all of our own news is censored, it is often difficult to get at the exact meaning and intention of many episodes, which come to us in more or less distorted shape. It seems certain as the days go by and we learn more and more of our new accessories, that enough has happened around Manila in the past two months to do away with any idea that the Filipinos are fit to carry on any kind of civilized independent government. They have no grasp on the principles necessary for a modern nationality. They are vain Malay people whose reasons are controlled by impulsive passions and are complete savages in warfare. They leave burning villages and famine behind them in their constant retreat, depriving their own people of shelter and food, and by their foolish action creating no impediment to the conquering Americans. In all probability the crimes of murder, theft and illegal lust precede that of arson and wanton destruction. To rob and destroy the homes of their own kindred is the Togal character, which at best is vengeful, treacherous, cruel and avaricious. Let us hope that there will be no more sentimental talk of turning over the sovereignty of these islands to the natives heard, not even in the streets of Boston which has been the center of "anti-Imperialistic" views. Such a result, if conceivable, would be an everlasting blot on this great country and an evidence before the world of its unworthiness to ask cessions and the relinquishment of existing sovereignty in any place, no matter what set of circumstances might have given us the right to demand it.

The situation in Samoa does not seem to change. A Commission representing the three powers, America, Great Britain and Germany has sailed for the islands and will act after a thorough investigation. All accounts show that the English and Americans have acted to-

cate toleration and respect nothing but actual brute force.

In our new island of Porto Rico nothing new has transpired. Once in a while some sensational paper announces a contemplated rebellion of the discontented; but the official reports and interviews indicate that the new government is giving great satisfaction. In all our new islands the courts are being continued on the old basis and changes are being made slowly and with care, but the schools, improvements and the safety and liberty of the individual are all so stamped with the idea of progress that none but the vicious, ignorant and irreconcilables are in any way opposed to fair trial of American methods.

Diplomatic relations between Spain and the United States which came to an end April 23, 1898, when Senor Polo departed from Washington, were renewed at 11 o'clock in the forenoon of June 3rd this year, when Duke d'Arcos, the newly accredited Spanish minister, presented his credentials to President McKinley at the White House. He was received by the President with a cordially dignified manner and the usual exchange of pleasant wishes took place. There is no doubt Spain's selection is fortunate one, as the Duke has before resided in this country and has a very large number of warm friends. In spite of the fact that the two countries have been at war with each other, there has never been any active dislike of Spanish individuals here, and this will make D'Arcos' mission pleasant and successful.

At the Hague in Holland has met the World's Peace Conference. It will be recalled that about a year or less ago, the Czar asked for a conference of representatives from all nations to consider questions of disarmament and peace. While it seems to COMFORT some of the topics are very visionary at the present time,

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there is no doubt that many things will come up for discussion which will make war less terrible. The British and Americans appear to be moving on the same general lines relative to arbitration and other questions.

The conference contains some of the most progressive and careful statesmen in the world, and while not all that might be hoped for universal peace will be accomplished, much advance in the interests of humanity when nations are engaged in war will be made.

Among the modern signs of the times have been the pleasant demonstrations of American good will on the Queen's birthday, May 24th. Many celebrations in connection with our English cousins took place that day. This cordial intent is also shown in an agreement between the two nations just about to be made public, by which a temporary boundary line between British America and Alaska has been defined to exist for two years, during which a definite line is to be established. This takes away one of the most troublesome questions existing between ourselves and will tend to make an earlier agreement relative to vexed questions on our mutual commercial relations with Canada.

This month's article cannot be closed without once more referring to the Philippines. On the whole the situation is comparatively good. Aguinaldo has declared himself a dictator, but his army is slowly crumbling away and as we have always predicted, turning into guerrillas. The civilian part of the commission has concluded the natives still need a severe lesson before peace can come; so Gen. Otis will be no longer hampered by their negotiations. The President is to send large reinforcements sufficient in strength to crush out opposition. The later reports show that the form of government offered the Filipinos by the Commission closely resembles that of our territories. The plan offered has a Governor-General appointed by the President, also judiciary. The Governor is to choose his own cabinet, which will be supported by an advisory council chosen by the people. Heads of departments, judges and the higher offices may be Americans or Filipinos or both.

In conclusion we can record that the Cubans are generally accepting the situation together with the money sent from this country. There are some rumors that there will ultimately be an uprising, but it is easier to threaten than act. The threat is: Independence or incendiary fires all over the island. The latest mails and advices show that the new school plan goes into effect in Porto Rico July 1st. By its wise provisions new free public schools are to be maintained in all parts of the island. The system devised by Mr. John B. Easton, Superintendent of schools, contemplates educating all persons between the ages of 6 and 18 years. These schools are to be open at least nine months in the year and will be supported by public taxation. It is hoped and believed that the natives will rapidly avail themselves of this means to make themselves better men and better citizens.

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